

THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL.

OF

Politics and General Literature.

VOL. V.]

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1822.

[No. 216.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

—97—

English Papers.

Letter from Paris.—The following admirable Letter has been some time in our possession, but a press of temporary matter forced us to postpone it, with many other valuable communications, to a less busy period:—

Paris.—If we are to believe the French Ministry, the Liberty of the Press was the most formidable enemy to the happiness of the country: and the people, now that their adversary is dead and buried, have accordingly full liberty to dance upon his grave with all the frolics and foolery of the Carnival.—That freedom is at least left to them; and, to say the truth, they abandon themselves to it with as much earnestness as if they feared that it was secured to them by the Charter, a pretty certain security for their being deprived of it ere long.—The life of a modern Frenchman has been such a series of astounding public changes; such a dream or nightmare of phantasms and disappointments; he has so often seen his expected enjoyments conjured away like Sancho Panza's supper at the waving of some political wand, that he seems determined henceforth to grapple time by the forelock, and take indemnity for the past, as well as the future, in an intense seizure of the present. Empires, thrones, dynasties, victories, every thing has passed away before him like a vision, until he begins to imagine that nothing is certain but to-day, and seems anxious to condense his pleasures as a set off against their instability. He is wise who lives to-day, said a Roman philosopher: he is wiser still, replied his pupil, who lived yesterday. It is a pity this dictum was first uttered on the banks of the Tiber; for it is well worthy the Palais Royal. And yet I am disposed to agree with Lady Morgan, that the French are the gravest people in Europe. Their dissipation seems the result of a principle rather than of gaiety, high spirits, or even of sensual temperament. They are dissolute from system, not feeling;—rakes by calculation, not impulse; and embark their heads rather than their hearts in the sea of pleasure. What can be more unwholesome than their convivial parties, more unjoyous than their dancing, more dead and ponderous than the vivacity of their Carnival? And yet each is pursued with as much grave and vigorous perseverance as if it imparted the most exquisite gratification, and the Government willingly suffers the public energies to develop themselves in this harmless direction.

The powers that be, evince a curious self-betrayal in the rigour of their political, compared with the laxity of their moral, system of suppression; for, they know that the throne of moral truth, founded upon the basis of common consent, cannot be shaken by attack; while the consciousness of their own bad title renders them jealous and inexorable towards those who would investigate it.—Hence, the most trifling engraving, or writing, or caricature, calculated to awaken a favourable reminiscence of Napoleon, is instantly ferreted out and seized; while the volumes of Piquart-le-Brun, and similar worthies, the *Liaisons Dangereuses*, and Louvet's profligate novel; works which would throw the whole Vice Society of London into extacies of horror, are suffered to be exposed upon every book-stall of the Boulevards.—Immorality, it is true, was one of the charges brought forward in the well known prosecution of De Beranger, just as impiety was charged against Hone for his Parody, but in both instances the real offence was the political allusion and the ridicule hap-

pily launched against an incapable Administration. It is useful to trace these coincidences between the two governments which are but ramifications of the same great conspiracy, for it may teach the people to league also; and what sight could be so soul-cheering and sublime as to behold France and England, instead of waging insane wars for their mutual torment and enslavement, united together, in a truly holy alliance to cashier the narrow-minded bigots who are thwarting the national impulse, and entrust the Government to liberal and enlightened Statesmen, who, by lending themselves to the spirit of the age, might restore the Constitution of both countries to its chartered standard, promote mutual intercourse, cultivate the arts of peace, and discountenance all jealous rivalry, except a competition for the proud pre-eminence of teaching the riotous how to live? "These are imperial arts and worthy Kings;" but unfortunately those who are before all others in station, are apt to be behind them in enlightened views, and the people must work these blessings for themselves, or they will remain for ever unachieved. The seeds are sown; may they be rapidly ripened, and bring forth the good fruit!

Mardi Gras, with its Tom-foolery, is all over. The Archbishop of Paris has issued his mandate for the strict observance of Lent; and as this is a period at which general humiliation is enjoined, the Ministry have piously provided suitable reflections for the whole nation, by depriving them of that share of liberty which alone distinguished them from their enslaved brethren of the Continent. Results will shew as to their wisdom. They have the laugh at present; but the million reserve theirs for the future, and in the mean time quote the old saying, "*il rit bien qui rit le dernier.*"—*Morning Chronicle*, April 5.

Paris, April 4.—The happiness of a community depends much less on the letter of its constitution, than the spirit in which it is administered. The free Commonwealth of Athens was founded on an absolute surrender of individual liberty; while the despotism of Persia did not impose any personal restraint on the mass of its population.* We must wait, therefore, to see in

* Our ingenious Correspondent is here repeating a very generally received error, which a little reflection will, we have no doubt, induce him to reject. With respect to Persia, we know very little indeed. Xenophon, in his account of the retreat, the most authentic work on the subject, describes the whole country through which he passed, as very thinly inhabited, in short, a country relatively weak, and imperfectly civilized. Our accounts of Athens are numerous, but they have all been furnished by the aristocratical party; and its history (that of Rome has only been commenced a few years ago) remains yet to be written. The French Revolution absolutely turned Mitford's head, and rendered the latter part of his work very inferior to the first. We know, however, that Athens flourished beyond any other state of antiquity, in arts and arms; that its barren soil was covered with inhabitants; and that its colonies were numerous in every direction. Could all this have taken place without much of real practical liberty? We hear of the broils of democracies, from the contending parties: but we hear nothing of the sufferings of the people under despotic governments. But does this prove their non-existence? The people of Russia suffer, no doubt, fewer evils than the ancient Persians suffered; but every man in office, from the highest to the lowest, and every Lord and his servants, can enslave a Russian peasant as long and as often as they please—a discretionary power of which we may be sure good advantage is taken, though nothing of all this appears in the *ST. PETERSBURGH GAZETTE*. EDITOR.

what temper the present Ministers of France will wield the tremendous power with which they are entrusted, before we can pronounce upon the effect of the late laws by which the slavery of the Press has been finally sealed.

"O, it is great to have a giant's power,
"But it is base to use it like a giant."

Even if they temper their despotism with a certain portion of liberality, which from the personal character of some of the body seems not unlikely, I shall not be a whit the better reconciled to the principle. I hate to wear my head in a lion's mouth upon the assurance that the creature is tame, and will never bite it off. So did the ancients. The more amiable the despot, the greater was held to be the merit of the tyrannicide, inasmuch as the evil was more seductive, and its remedy more trying to the feelings. These were desperate expedients, but the complaint at that time admitted no other effectual cure. Now a-days we are told that public opinion is a sufficient guarantee against any outrageous abuses of Government, and it would seem as if they really thought so, for they are in all quarters paring the nails and muzzling the mouth of this formidable champion; at a moment too, when it is the only one left to us against the leagues of crowned conspirators, and the steel arguments of standing armies.

I am inclined to think that the abolition of the Censorship in France, notwithstanding the severe laws by which it is superseded, will allow a greater immediate latitude than was before enjoyed; for many truths, which they would gladly have suppressed, the Ministers will be ashamed to prosecute; and many which may even be legally indictable will still be uttered, for in the present state of feeling, the offenders will be sure of a large party, who will rather deem them martyrs than criminals. The new plot which has been discovered among the subalterns of one of the regiments, was minutely detailed in many of the papers, without being noticed in the *MONITEUR*: whence we may fairly conclude, that during the Censorship it would not have been suffered to transpire in any.

With the great majority of the French nation I have confidence in the personal character of the Monarch; I would extend the same concession to some of the present Administration, though, as you are well aware, no friend to their avowed political principles; but I do sadly mistrust both the prudence and the politics of a third party with whom they are forming a much too intimate union—I mean the Priesthood. Can it be supposed that the Missionaries were not countenanced by the powers that be, in preaching against the Spaniards? Or that they have not authority, tacit or positive, for discountenancing the Lancastrian system of education, especially when we know that it is actually forbidden in Italy by the long-faced Alaric of Vienna? When the Monarchs of Europe were making all sorts of fine promises in order to excite their subjects against Napoleon, promised them Constitutions adapted to the state of knowledge; and now they are endeavouring to replunge them in ignorance, as an excuse for additional restrictions upon their liberty! They would extend the "*vellem nescire literas*," of Nero to the whole population of Europe, but it is too late. The bird, as Cobbett says, has escaped from the cage. Legitimacy and despotism must abate something of their haughty tone, while Bernadotte reigns in Sweden, and the Spaniards and Portuguese uphold their glories revolution. I will say with Peccchio, the exiled Italian Patriot now in Spain—"Sia pur colossale quanto vuole il dispotismo: questo Briareo non mi fa più paura; le sue braccia non giungono sino ad Irun;—and if I am told that Europe is kept in tranquillity by the methods which I am deprecating, I would reply with the Palatine of the Polish Diet—"Malo periculosam libertatem quam quietum servitium."—*Morning Chronicle*, April 10.

Mr. Canning.—We learn from good authority, that Mr. Canning does not intend to vacate his seat for this borough, by accepting the Chiltern Hundreds, until immediately before his departure for India, which will not be before next September.—*Liverpool Advertiser*.

Judge Fletcher.—The late Irish Papers bring us a report of a Charge delivered by Judge FLETCHER at the late Cavan Assizes. It contains some valuable observations on the evils engendered by the illicit distillation which flourishes under the existing Revenue Laws; upon this subject, however, little difference of sentiment exists; the most important part of the Charge is that in which the extraordinary system of fabrication and exaggeration that has prevailed during the commotions in the South of Ireland is adverted to; there is also some reference to the accession of Lord WELLESLEY to the Government of Ireland, and some expectations of its operation in extinguishing party-spirit expressed. We should be very loth to renounce all participation in the Learned Judge's hopes, but we cannot forget that Lord WELLESLEY is not the sole depository of power in Ireland; there are offices with the administration of which the tranquillity and happiness of the country are even more intimately connected than with the dispositions of the individual who may ostensibly hold the first place in the Government. The question, perhaps, most directly and immediately important is the state of the Magistracy: now it rests altogether with Lord MANNERS, the Chancellor, and however excellent Lord WELLESLEY's intentions the country can derive no benefit from them in this particular. We have also the charge of Mr. Serjeant LEFROY delivered at Limerick. Our readers will be, no doubt, surprised to hear, on the authority of the Learned Serjeant, that the present condition of Ireland is not occasioned by the superabundance of her population, the *absenteeship* of the great proprietors, by distress, by tithes, by the want of education; but arises altogether from want of the love of God! He tells the Grand Jury, that they will find the whole matter explained in the Bill of Indictment. "The not having the fear of God before their eyes, but being moved and instigated by the enemy of God and men." We might perhaps, let Serjeant LEFROY'S Charge pass unnoticed, but that we deem it a duty to express our reprobation of any thing, however colourable, which has a tendency to arrest the progress of inquiry into the calamitous situation of Ireland, and to prevent the application of such remedies as human wisdom can devise. We are quite sure that the Legislature must do something and Government a great deal before we can reasonably complain that the poor Irish want the grace of God. Besides who does not know that the irritation produced by the unfortunate situation of the people of the South, must so long as it exists, prevent the fear of God from having its proper influence?

Lieutenant Burns.—Under our foreign head the reader will find an abridged account of an action fought at Mongrady, East Indies, on the 21st October, 1821, betwixt a detachment of the 4th Light Cavalry, under Major RINGE, a numerous body of Native Troops, commanded by the Manharoo in person. Victory, as usual, declared for the British; and among the gallant young officers whose conduct on the field attracted the notice of the Commanding Officer, we are happy to see mentioned in the *Gazette* the name Lieutenant JAMES GLENCAIRN BURNS, a native of this county, and the youngest son of the Poet. Those who take an interest in the family of the Bard, will be pleased to learn this fact, and the more so when we assure them that Mr. BURNS, who is as good as he is brave, has ever discharged the duties of a son and a brother, in a manner that entitles him to the warmest regards of every real-hearted Scotsman.—*Dumfries Courier*.

Brunswick.—In a letter from Brunswick, in the *Allgemeine Zeitung*, it is said—"A strong and at the same time interesting testimony to the confidence of foreigners in the honesty and kindness of the German character, was lately afforded here. A deaf and dumb Englishman came here as solitary wanderer, with no guide but his dog, without understanding German, and with no other means of existing than his trade of a printer. He did not meet with the slightest unpleasant occurrence all the way from Hamburg hither, and he contrived to make himself easily understood by signs in the printing-office of M. Vieweg, to whom he sold his invention of spreading the ink with rollers, instead of balls."—*Morning Chronicle*, April 8.

Sir Thomas Maitland.

A press of matter has hitherto prevented us from doing more than merely allude to the Address of his Excellency the Lord High Commissioner, Sir THOMAS MAITLAND, to the Legislative Assembly of the United Ionian States, which our readers will find in the last page. This we regret the more, as, even if we were ignorant of the care with which it has been circulated in this country by his friends, it is impossible for us not to see from the document itself that his Excellency, in framing it, must have had the British public in view rather than the Ionians. He is too much a courtier, we should suppose, not to know that, in so far as the latter were concerned, they could derive very little gratification from prolix accounts of occurrences of which none of them could be ignorant, and minute geographical descriptions of what they could see every day with their own eyes. It might be necessary to inform the people of England, for instance, that Santa Maura "is separated from the continent of Greece by a narrow channel nearly fordable;" but a man must have an itch for the communication of knowledge equal at least in strength to that of King MIDAS's barber, to think of telling truths of this description to a people familiar with them from their infancy. One would as soon expect to hear a Lord Mayor of London, in his first speech to the Common Council, informing them that, of the arches of London Bridge, the middle was widest; or a Mayor of Newcastle informing his fellow citizens that there were coal mines in their neighbourhood. Much less would have satisfied the Ionian Legislators than this lengthy Address; but their patience was put a little to the rack for the sake of the people of England, who ought to consider this effort in the light of a compliment paid to them.

Sir THOMAS commences with observing, that the period between the last adjournment and the then meeting of the assembly had been one of a most eventful nature, and that the Executive Government had been "placed in a situation perfectly novel," which dictated certain measures. — Sir THOMAS has apparently forgotten the last Revolution attempted in the Morea, which provoked such a display of Turkish cruelty. — How did the Venetian Government then act? Did it send one man to the Islands, or feel the least necessity for it? How did it happen that there were then no revolts in the Islands?

Sir THOMAS says, "The Executive Government continued strictly and religiously to adhere to the principle of neutrality," and that "to this wise and salutary line of conduct is to be attributed the perfect tranquillity now reigning in every part of the Ionian States." — Perfect tranquillity! Was ever insult to common sense carried farther than this? Perfect tranquillity! and yet he tells us he has been under the necessity of putting the Islands under martial law, and of disarming the inhabitants.

As a proof that his measures were formed on the Executive Government, he alludes to the people of Cephalonia and Zante quitting the Ionian shores in the face of day, with arms in their hands, "openly braving the orders and the authority of the Government." — Because a few warm and enthusiastic youths, when quitting the Islands to fly to the relief of their brethren, with whom he himself allows it was natural they should strongly sympathize, might give vent to their pleasure by shouts and exclamations, was it necessary to put the whole people of the Islands under martial law? Could a single boat go off in this manner if the Government had chosen to prevent it? Does he mean to say that he had not sufficient force to prevent vessels of every description from braving his authority? But he immediately reminds the Legislators that *Proclamations against clandestine departure* were not issued till *scenes such as these had passed*. And yet his Excellency did not first draw breath in our sister Island! Because his authority had been braved in the face of day, he takes measures against clandestine departure, and as a preventative against clandestine departure he adopts martial law!

Let us see how another Government acted in a case somewhat similar only a few weeks ago. A Greek vessel in Leghorn, bearing the Tuscan flag, and having Tuscan Papers, on completing her cargo, consisting of ammunition, &c. for Greece, while the anchor was raising and the officers were embarking, took down the Tuscan colours, and hoisted those of Grecian Independence, firing salutes all the while. This was a very foolish act no doubt. But did the Tuscan Government do more than say it was a display of imprudent enthusiasm? Did it attempt to chastise the numerous other Greeks in that port on account of it. Certainly not. The most tyrannical state of Europe would never have dreamt of such a thing.

The Parganots are next included in Sir THOMAS's Articles of Impeachment. Their conduct, he says, exhibited a scene "which it was impossible for the Government to pass over, unless it tamely consented to be considered as a party to a transaction the most lawless and unprincipled. I allude to the regular military expedition from these Islands against Parga by its former inhabitants, who had found an asylum in these States; and to the positive refusal on the part of this Government, again to receive them after the defeat they had suffered in their predatory expedition."

Here we would in the first place ask — Is it to be believed, that in the reach of a fortress with a numerous garrison, a regular military expedition could take place in defiance of the Government? Let any one look at the Port of Corfu, as exhibited in the Panorama in the Strand, and he will see that neither ship nor boat can leave it without the permission or connivance of the Government. But why does he say it was impossible for the Government to pass over this? The Government actually did pass it over so far that the Parganots had been performing quarantine several days with a view to their landing, when Sir THOMAS arrived, who immediately issued his Proclamation, expelling them and their families from the Islands for ever. It was not therefore the will of the Executive Government properly, but that of Sir THOMAS himself which was displayed on this occasion. If the Government had wished to expel them, they would not have been allowed to pass one day in quarantine, but immediately ordered off.

Sir THOMAS pretends next to allude to what took place in the island of Zante, when "a small detachment of an Officer and twenty men (he says) were sent to ensure the observance of the sanita laws on the part of the Turks, and the people commenced an attack on his MAJESTY's troops, wounding an Officer, &c., an act of open and flagrant rebellion without provocation!" He does not tell us that this detachment fired over the heads of the Greek militia before they were attacked. Who fired first? Was it the detachment or the militia? How then can it be said, that the outrage was unprovoked? We say nothing now as to the culpability; but candour requires that the circumstances should not be misrepresented.

"It is true (he tells us) that the people of Cephalonia had never committed outrages such as those exhibited at Zante." — Well, why then were they to be disarmed and placed under martial law? "The Island was as liable as Zante to the approach of the contending squadrons; and it was impossible, after what had passed at Zante, that in the event of a contest occurring between these vessels near the shores of Cephalonia, for the Executive Government not to anticipate a similar scene of disgraceful tumult." — What then, Sir THOMAS, you forget that you had proclaimed that no vessel of war should enter the Ionian Seas; and as the enforcement of such a Proclamation was easy, what chance or probability was there of such a scene recurring? Nothing is more easy than to invent reasons for measures; but nothing is, at the same time, more difficult than to harmonise a series of invented reasons. The same difficulty presents itself when a defective memory is in the case; and here charity suggests to us, that Sir THOMAS must merely have forgotten his own Proclamation. Though he could read the Ionians long lectures on the geography of their Islands, he had no doubt forgotten that he could always prevent vessels of war coming up the Ionian Seas.

But admire his resources in assigning reasons. — Santa Maura next comes to be disposed of. Well, let us see how stands the case with Santa Maura. "Here the disarming," we are told, was no new measure, it having been carried into execution three years ago. The declaration of martial law for the time was, however, necessary on other grounds. This island is separated from the continent of Greece by a narrow channel nearly fordable, and exposed on that account to the constant incursions of banditti. — In the present situation of the Continent, these incursions had been so frequent, and were attended with such daring acts of outrage and murder, that the Magistrates were exposed to danger in the execution of their functions." This is certainly the *neplus ultra* of MAITLAND, reasoning. Arms are given to the inhabitants of Santa Maura to enable them to repel the foreign and piratical aggressions to which, from their proximity to the Continent, they are subject, and not to protect them against aggressions from the other islands, and yet you deprive them of these arms at a time when you yourself say the incursions from the Continent were frequent, and attended with the most daring acts of outrage!

"It is well known (he says) that the principle on which the Ionian people were indiscriminately armed was to enable them to repel foreign and piratical aggressors." Here it may be remarked, that arms were not indiscriminately given to the Ionians. It was only those who were enrolled as militia who were allowed to carry arms, and that only when on duty. The Ionians were not an armed people any more than the people of England are. — In Albania and the Morea, where the people were in a state of anarchy, they were armed, but the Ionians had been accustomed to live under a reign of law.

But to proceed with our examination. "It has been stated (says Sir THOMAS) that the commotions which have taken place in the islands to the southward are not the result of the revolutionary spirit which has shewn itself in Greece, but that they are solely to be ascribed to the oppressive rule of your present Constitutional Government." In no instance, he adds, "has the Government to complain of conduct of the people in any thing disconnected with that revolution." Softly Sir THOMAS. — Pray, when the people took up arms three years ago, as you have just been telling us they did in Santa Maura and Zante, which forced you to proclaim martial law in the former, was that in consequence of

the Revolutionary spirit in Greece? Was there any idea of a Revolution in Greece three years ago? The disturbances at Zante took place two years and a half ago. Those of Cephalonia took place two years and a half ago. Had they any thing to do with the Greek Revolution? Is it not wonderful that he should dare to put this on paper, when it is known that he was obliged himself to fly from Island to Island, to suppress the commotions which had broken out?

But passing over numberless contradictions, let us proceed to his account of the Finances. How rich his Treasury! What a careful and economical Administrator! Actual cash in the Treasury on the 31st of January, 1821, no less than 535,480 dollars; and next year, 31st of January, 1822, 644,206. People might suppose from this that we had here something like an average balance. But of this cash, so pompously displayed here, not a dollar perhaps would be found in the Treasury the following week after the annual payments had been made. "I recommend (he says) that a Committee, as usual, should examine these statements with all their details." Near opportunities for contemplating the mechanism of the Scots Burgh system have now we see presented themselves to Sir T. in vain. Why a committee, when there are only 30 Members in the whole Legislative Body? Ah! but it might be imprudent to trust such important secrets as are connected with Accounts, even to 30 individuals! MACACHAVEL has some important observations on the connection between blabbing and numbers, and a secret is much safer with three than thirty, however well-disposed the latter may be. By that paragon of Constitutions, the Roman Constitution itself, the Members can only say whether or not the Accounts contain any arithmetical errors. They have no power of pronouncing an opinion respecting the expenditure. And where was the mighty necessity for hurrying over the Speech to England in 14 days, and not waiting two or three days more in order to be able to send the Accounts along with it? But we will venture to predict, that as the Accounts have never reached this country, they never will reach it. But into this subject we shall enter more at length in a few days.

"Towards the close of the last Session, a Resolution (he tells us) passed the Assembly, for the erection of a College in the Island of Ithaca."—The carrying this Resolution into execution, would have been one atoning act for our oppressive government of the Ionians in the eyes of Europe. This act would have done honour to the country under him as well as to England. Why was it postponed, which in the MAITLAND Vocabulary is being set aside altogether? Why were the beneficent intentions of his MAJESTY (so distinctly made known, on this subject by his special appointment of a Chancellor to this University) frustrated by Sir THOMAS? We have heard it said, that it was because he himself had not the patronage of the different Professorships and Offices; but we cannot believe a statement so injurious to him.

With respect to religion he tells us, that difficulties have "presented themselves in strictly fulfilling the article in the Constitutional Chart on this subject."—And how have the difficulties arisen? Because the Patriarch would not give his sanction to the measures of Sir THOMAS, by which he wished to make himself the HENRY the Eighth of the Greek Church. That Church allows of no such interference as that claimed by Sir THOMAS.—It decides itself, exclusively, as to the fitness or unfitness of appointing Bishops in places where there were none before. Before there were only three Bishops in the Islands, and the people were perfectly satisfied with that number, which many persons may think greater than was calculated to do them good; but Sir THOMAS, for reasons best known to himself, demands no fewer than seven. This is the real cause of the difficulty! And mark the time chosen by him for the getting over these difficulties! He chooses a time for establishing additional Bishops, when there is no Patriarch regularly elected by the Church to confirm them! If there is one measure more than another, calculated to rouse the people of these Islands to rebellion, it is this;—for the Clergy in the islands will, no more than the Clergy on the continent, ever acknowledged the authority of a Bishop confirmed by a Patriarch appointed by the Porte, and not appointed by the Church, which is the case at present. Hence we see the Porte at present arresting Bishops at Constantinople for resisting the mandates of Patriarch whom they do not acknowledge. And is it to be supposed the Ionian Clergy will do less? More they may be disposed to do, but certainly not less. It is impossible, in short, to conceive a measure more calculated to increase the anarchy of the Islands than this interference with religion. But the nomination of seven of his creatures, as heads of the Church, he no doubt thinks would be a powerful engine in his hands. The attempt, however, as must be known to every one at all acquainted with the influence of religion in the Greeks, and the jealousy with which they view all attempts of foreign interference with that religion, is pregnant with danger.

It was hardly necessary for Sir THOMAS to allude with so much formality to his proposed absence. "We are now, Mr. President and Gentlemen (he says), arrived at the fifth and last Session of the first Parliament held under the Constitutional Charter of 1817; and I should here close the observations I have thought it necessary to make, did not the

unfortunate state of my health render it but too probable that I shall be obliged to seek relief by a temporary absence from the States, antecedent to the end of the present Session." Has he not every year left the islands for a time to take the waters in Italy? Are we to understand that he means to do the same this year? There is more however here than perhaps meets the eye. No one can have observed the conduct of Sir THOMAS with any attention, without seeing the benefit which he has often derived from communications by conversation rather than writing. *Verba scripta manent.* A visit to England would admit of a more advantageous intercourse with Ministers, than can be carried on by writing—an intercourse much better calculated for displaying the resources of a skilful diplomatist.

We shall conclude with a few observations on the enlogy which with an assurance which has surprised us not a little, he has chosen to pass upon his own Government. "It is the fact of your having now lived for the first time, since the fall of the Venetian rule, for a considerable period under a regular Government"!!! The Ionians lived eight years under the Government of Russia, and seven years under the Government of France, and seven years under their own Government of the Septinsular Republic, the basis of the organization of which the Treaty of Paris expressly stipulated should be adopted in the formation of the new Government. Sir THOMAS, not contented with insulting all these as irregular Governments, has a throw also at his predecessors, Generals OSWALD and AIREY, under whom the Islands were governed for six years previous to Sir THOMAS's arrival. We will not do the injury to any of these Governments by comparing them for a moment with the regular Government of Sir THOMAS, regular only in the uniform display of abuse, the unvaried exercise of all that is calculated to render the inhabitants wretched. But we shall soon have an opportunity of noticing the Governments which Sir THOMAS has here labelled. The mockery of a Constitution, regular Constitution if he will have it so, is now well understood throughout all Europe, and provokes the expression of indignant feeling of all enlightened Ionians in every part of Europe.—The best test of the value of Sir THOMAS's constitutional labours is this, that during the five years his Constitution has been in operation, there have been nothing but constant rebellions and revolts in every island, and that it has been found necessary to adopt the most coercive measures to crush the discontent, and to keep up a military force double the amount of that with which we held the Islands during a state of war, under the above-mentioned Generals. His whole administration has been a signal failure, if the intention was to benefit the Ionians, or to save England. But they know little of human nature who imagine, that however signal the failure in such a case may have been, self-love will not, in nine cases out of ten, induce a wish that others may not be more fortunate in their experiments. We can easily conceive, therefore, that the first object with Sir THOMAS at this time, is the securing a permanency to the system which has been productive of so much calamity to the mis-governed Ionians. As new elections must now be entered on, he no doubt has his fears lest the Ionians, finding their case not so desperate in England as they had been taught to imagine: may resist his elections; and he will therefore probably stick at no means to intimidate them from the attempt. The present elections are of the utmost importance to him, for if he secures them, he secures his constitution for five years more against the attempts of any of his successors.

According to Mr. WILMOT, the LORD HIGH COMMISSIONER is anxious for investigation, and wishes to come to England with a view to it. Why not let the investigation take place then; and let also those individuals, who are now wandering about as exiles on the Continent, because they incurred his displeasure—why not let them be called, in order that either he may face them, or they him? These are not individuals dissatisfied with his Government, because they were disappointed of places; on the contrary, they incurred his displeasure, by refusing to accept places. We allude to MARTENGO, DES-ILA, SICURO, TEOCCHI, brother of the PRESIDENT, FLAMMARIANI, LOGOTHETI, ROMA, METAXA, &c. &c. men whose landed property in the Islands amounts to more than that of all those who enjoy his favours put together.—*Morning Chronicle.*

BIRTHS.

On Saturday last, the 13th of April, in Baker-street, the Lady of William James, Esq., M. P., of a son.

On Sunday, the 14th of April, Mrs. James Graham, of Finsbury, of a son, her sixth child.

MARRIAGE.

On the 13th of April, at Walthamstow, by the Rev. John Lewis, Rector of Ingatestone, Wendover Fry, Esq., to Sophia, eldest daughter of the late Robert Lee, Esq., of the former place.

DEATH.

On the 10th of April, James Simpson, Esq., surgeon, late of Billington-square, London.

PUBLIC MEETING.

—101—

Huntingdon County Meeting.

On Wednesday, (April 3) about twelve, C. PEMBERTON, Esq. the Sub Sheriff, entered the Court-hall, and in the course of a few minutes, commenced the proceedings of the day, by expressing the willingness of the High Sheriff at all times to convene public Meetings for constitutional purposes, when proper requisitions to that effect were transmitted to him. The High Sheriff would have been present himself had it been usual for a Sheriff chosen out of Cambridgeshire to attend a Meeting at Huntingdon, and it was to that circumstance alone, that he, Mr. Pemberton ascribed the honour of presiding that day. The Learned Gentleman concluded by requesting that every inhabitant of the town and county who chose to address the Meeting, might have an impartial hearing; for it was a Meeting, not of the Freeholders alone, but of the County at large (*applause*). At the same time he must request gentlemen to confine themselves to the subjects contained in the requisition; for if they departed from them it would be his painful duty to interrupt them—and however painful that duty might be, he must perform it. He had had two letters put into his hands since his arrival at Huntingdon, which he would read.

The first was from Mr. Fellows stating that as his (Mr. Fellows's) opinions on the subject of the requisition, which sought to introduce dangerous innovations under the name of Reform, were well known to the County; and as he understood that the County Gentlemen, who entertained the same views with himself, did not intend to be present, it was wholly unnecessary for him to attend; but that he should be ready to present any Petition they might pass. (*The reading of this letter excited considerable disapprobation.*)

The second letter was from Lord John Russell, stating that indisposition restrained him from being present; and that he should be happy to present and support any Petition that had for its object a Reform in Parliament (*much applause*).

Mr. HAMMOND then presented himself. The County of Huntingdon had had many public Meetings, but none on a more important subject than the present; which indeed involved two questions—Agricultural Distress and Parliamentary Reform. The first involved consequences of the last importance—the preservation of that small portion of property yet left out of the general ruin that surrounded them; while the second involved the preservation of their rights and liberties—nay the very existence of the constitution itself (*applause*). He expressed his surprise and regret, that in this lamentable state of things, the country gentlemen did not come forward; it was their apathy and lukewarmness that gave Ministers a handle, which they failed not to use in stigmatizing the Petitions of the people. Lord Londonderry, when the Norfolk Petition was presented in the House of Commons, said it did not represent the property and the intelligence of the county, because he did not see any great names attached to it; and in fine, that it did not express the collective wisdom of the county; which was as much as to say, that all who had not had an university education, or who did not possess three or four thousand a year, could not speak common sense, or with common honesty (*laughter*). The last time he (Mr. Hammond) addressed the Meeting, which was about a year since, he warned the farmers that their distresses were but as coming on, that nothing could bring an increased price of corn; the hope of which had deluded them for the last seven years, entailing destruction on their property. He (Mr. H.) then told the County Gentlemen, that if the delusion was continued, they would shortly receive no rents; the Clergy would get no tithes, the labourers no employment; nor the shop-keeper trade; and they would generally find that such was now the case. As to the hiring farmers poor fellows, they were now quite out of the question, their capital was already absorbed; and although the country Gentlemen seemed so indifferent now, yet without a Reform in Parliament they must also be ruined. The worthy Gentleman could compare the apathy which accelerated their ruin, to nothing but the infatuation of the crew of a sinking vessel, who, to get at the liquor, break open the stores in order that they may go to the bottom in a state of insensibility (*applause*). The present era and state of affairs in England might be compared to that of Egypt about four thousand years ago. Egypt, like England, was a corn country particularly in the Delta, a sort of low country near the Nile, like our fens, where the lands, from the overflowing of that river, are particularly fertile. There happened seven years of plenty, and then seven years of famine. During the seven years of plenty the Government bought up the corn; and when the famine came, the farmers were constrained to buy corn of the Government for their sustenance; at first they purchased it with their money, but when their money was exhausted, they purchased it with their cattle; when their cattle were gone, they purchased it with their land; and when their land was gone, to avoid starvation, they prostrated themselves at the foot of the throne, imploring that they and their posterity might be purchased as slaves, so that they had but bread to eat. The case was exactly parallel now in England. For the first part of the last seven years the farmers had been expending their money in payment of rent, taxes, and rates. Secondly, they were obliged to sell their stock

—and what farm was now much more than half-stocked? Thirdly, they have been obliged to mortgage their land or sell it for what they could get. And lastly, must surrender their liberty by going to goal or to a workhouse. Yet in this deplorable state of things, Ministers, reclining on their bed of roses, turn a deaf ear to the complaints of the people, and will not deign to afford relief. They will not see the distresses of the county because they are personally interested in them. There is an old proverb, that none are so blind as those that won't see. Six years ago, the Agricultural Society, alarmed at the then state of things, directed their Secretary to send circular letters to such Gentlemen as were considered best acquainted with agricultural matters, if possible to ascertain the cause of the distress that generally prevailed among the farmers. It was the common opinion of those Gentlemen that the distress arose from excessive taxation. Now, if the distress then arose from taxation, how much the more, *a fortiori*, must taxation be the cause of the present distress, since Ministers have laid on three millions of new taxes since that period (*applause*). There have been a variety of opinions, continued Mr. Hammond, on the original cause of the distress. Many were led away with the idea that it was owing to the importation of foreign corn; he himself was once of that opinion; but it was the object of his life to divest his mind of prejudice, and he now confessed his error. He was now persuaded that a graduated import duty could afford no relief. It would be but taking so much money out of the pockets of the people to put it into those of the Members of the Government; and as taxation is the cause of the distress, they would thereby be but aggravating the evil. In England, as a manufacturing country, provisions should be cheap, and the taxes ought to be so low as to enable the farmer to obtain a remunerating price. Corn being an article of general consumption, ought not to be taxed; but china, glass, muslins, and many other things which were mere luxuries, might be proportionably taxed; but a tax on corn he considered not only cruel and unjust, but impious. Providence in its bounty gives us every thing that our wants demand; but man steps in, and by his cruel laws deprives us of the blessing (*applause*). Lord Liverpool had said that agriculture must relieve itself out of its own resources; and so long as the money continued to pour in to the Treasury, and they enjoy it, little will they think how that money is procured, and how hardly it is earned by the sweat of the brow, and wrested from the hands that labour hard. Ministers will never reform so long as you allow them money to squander at their pleasure; for Lord Liverpool had the assurance to assert that the distress did not arise from taxation, but from over-production. When his Lordship looked in his political dictionary for this word, he should have found the word over-taxation, which he considered would have been much more applicable. Ministers say again, that the distress is occasioned partly by Mr. Peel's Bill, but this could not be, as the Bank had issued more specie for the last two or three years than heretofore. It cannot be from the importation of corn, as none had been imported; the real cause, therefore, must evidently be an excessive load of taxation more than the country is able to bear. Government, by their collectors and receivers, pour the sums into the Treasury, thence it goes into private hands and returns no more into circulation: Ministers have recourse to many and strange tricks to keep up the taxes. The Duke of Buckingham lately put forth a statement to shew how inconsiderable the taxes were on a farm of 400 acres, and the persons employed thereon. Such misrepresentations have a most evil effect upon the minds of the public, and ought to be set aright. This statement of the Duke's is full of misrepresentations, particularly relative to the Tax on Salt and Leather, the tax on each of which articles would be double to that stated by the Noble Duke. The next trick was this—when the country met to discuss their grievances and submit them to the legislature by Petition, Ministers called it popular clamour. Is this to be endured? Are the people to be deprived of that liberty which they have so long enjoyed under the Bill of Rights? These tricks and misstatements are taken up by the Ministerial Papers, and particularly, he had observed, in *BELL'S WEEKLY MESSENGER*, which though it pretended to be a friend to farmers, was, in truth, a tool of Ministers, and its statements created a jealousy between the landlord and farmers. Such sycophant editors of newspapers are, in truth, a nuisance to the country, and ought not to breathe the same air. This same *BELL'S MESSENGER* had asserted, that the total expence on an acre of land was 3*l.*: he would appeal to any farmer, could an acre be farmed for less than 6*l.*? Never was a man more out in his calculations than the Duke of Buckingham: it reminded him of Hudibras—

"He was in logic a great critic,
Profoundly skill'd in analytic;
He could distinguish, and divide
A hair 'twixt south and south west side;
On either which he would dispute,
Confute, change hands, and still confute;
He'd undertake to prove, by force
Of argument, a mau's no horse;
He'd prove a buzzard is no fowl,
And that a lord may be an owl.

The arguments of Lord Londonderry to repel the attacks (as he is pleased to call them) upon the faith and public credit of the country, are so futile that it was unnecessary to repeat them; he tells Mr. Hume that he takes harlequin leaps from one item to another, but he trusted the Caledonian champion would not be put down by flashes of Hibernian wit. If any thing is said about Reform, his Lordship turns pale, and seems ready to give up the ghost: this reminded him of a sentence in a play, of a miser who hid his treasure in a garden and lost it; on discovering his loss, he exclaimed he was murdered, then his throat was cut, and other mad exclamations; so Lord Liverpool, if he were to lose the taxes, would lose all his dependence, and would exclaim with the miser, that he had lost every thing, he would be willing to hang all the country, and then hang himself (*much applause*).—Lord Liverpool began his statement to the people by telling them of the improvement in exports and imports, and in the habits of the people, and that the duty upon tea had increased—that people more generally partook of that delicate beverage instead of the vulgar home-brewed beer. He, however, was an advocate for keeping up the good old customs of our forefathers—perhaps next year his Lordship will congratulate the people upon a further improvement in their habits by having left off eating roast beef and plum pudding, and taken to eating frogs and soup meagre. He would only remind the Meeting, that the men who fought and gained the battle of the Nile, did not drink tea, or live upon frogs and soup meagre. His Lordship says, we do not stand alone in our distresses, for all Europe is distressed—this is certainly very humane and very consolatory, as much as to say, if my house is burnt down, I may make myself very easy because my neighbours is burnt down also. This is certainly reversing the old maxim, "Weep with them that weep, and rejoice with them that rejoice." His Lordship's grand argument is, that the same distress exists in Switzerland. They have no standing army, and but few taxes, therefore, that taxation cannot be the cause of our distress. Mr. H. would take upon himself to confute this argument, for having, when young, travelled through Switzerland, he was conversant in its resources. Switzerland is a small country, and its chief resources are feeding cattle and making cheese, which they exchange for rice, wheat, &c. With Italy and other countries they have but few manufactures, and it must be observed that it is the poverty of the countries with whom they had used to trade, who are now unable to purchase of them, which has caused their distresses. It is a lamentable thing that Ministers will not profit by experience as individuals do; let them, however, beware how they rouse the British Lion; the English are a patient people, but depressed and driven to desperation they will rouse themselves up, and like the Leviathan, laugh at the shaking of a spear. Ancient history informs us, that the Son of a King ascended the throne of his father, who had left the country in a prosperous state. The subjects had soon, however, to pray for relief from some oppression. The young King took the opinion of his young friends, and disregarded the old advice of his Father, and in answer to the prayers of his subjects, said, my Father chastised you with rods, but I will chastise you with scorpions. The consequence was, that those subjects revolted, and the possession of the throne passed into other hands. The fall of the Jews is another instance. Excessive taxation was the cause of the fall of Rome—excessive taxation lost America to this Country—excessive taxation caused the French revolution—by excessive taxation the Dutch lost their liberty and became subservient to a Kingly Government. Excessive taxation caused the disorganization of the Government in Spain, and produced the insurrection in Greece. To a reduction of taxation therefore we must look for relief for he thought that if any person considered the matter fully, the conclusion must be, that excessive taxation is the sole cause of the distress. It had been ingeniously asserted that every new tax levied created an ability in the subject to pay it. This could not be, and was so manifestly absurd, that it did not require a single word to refute it. It might be asked, how came the taxes to fall so heavily upon the farmer? He would answer, that all taxes ultimately fall upon the land.—Farmers may be considered as working for all other parts of society, and *vice versa*. Country gentlemen, he considered, are not much to be pitied; as by lending themselves to Ministers they have brought the present distress upon themselves and the country. What is public credit? It is the reliance of the country on the ability of the Government to pay all the debts it contracts. If, however, Government pay as far as they can, they are not dishonest, any more than an individual who pays half-a-crown in the pound, provided, all his property is given up. An old proverb says a part is greater than the whole; he thought it applied to the fundholder, who had better lose a part of his property, than to lose both principal and interest. As to Parliamentary Reform, though it appears a secondary question, it is a primary object. Had Parliament been reformed when the question of Reform was first agitated, the country would not have been in the state it now is. Reform was first agitated in 1773, when a Meeting was held to consider the subject, comprising the Duke of Richmond and others. Pitt made a motion for a Reform in 1792, and he then declared that without it no honest man could remain in the Administration. So corrupt was the system held to be, that it was even asserted that a foreign power and an enemy might by means of money get men into the House

under the mask of Members of Parliament. In his opinion, there must either be a Reform or an end to the Constitution. King William was the first who declared the English to be a free people; in his reign the Whigs were in, in the reign of Anne the Tories were in, and in the reign of George the Second, the Whigs were in again; but he was sorry to say of his brother Whigs that they were instrumental in bringing forward the corrupt system; in the late reign the Tories were again and are now in, and carry on the same venality and corruption. In his opinion, therefore, it was high time a third party was in, who would consider the good of their country even to their individual disadvantages; it is high time all hands and hearts were united for the general good. No relief can be expected from the House of Commons as at present constituted, the fact of their being a majority always at the disposal of the Crown bears out the assertion, and proves that the House of Commons, instead of being of service to the country, is, in fact, a nuisance—it is paid by the country, and acts against its interests—therefore, there is a necessity for a more full, fair, and free representation of the people in Parliament. Baron Montesquieu says, a nation is never in more danger than when it retains all its forms and ceremonies, without enjoying the full substance. A proof of the truth of this is manifest in the Romans, who retained all offices of censor, &c. &c. but became so devoted to the will of the Emperor, that they lost all their respectability, and sunk into deserved contempt, and there ended their liberties; and such must be the case with us, if the House of Commons is not reformed. The necessity of Reform should be sounded from one end of the kingdom to another; for there is no alternative; there must be a reduction of taxation, or endless misery—a Reform in Parliament, or an end to our liberties.

Mr. TYCHO WING begged to second the Resolutions proposed by his venerable Friend on the left; and apologised in thus early addressing the Meeting. He was highly pleased at seeing the requisition signed from among the body of the people; he considered it of infinitely more consequence to the welfare of the Constitution than if it had emanated from titled hands. He was happy to see the rising spirit of the yeomanry evinced in this cause, for he was firmly of opinion, that nothing short of Reform in Parliament, and an extensive reduction of taxation could effect any thing beneficial to the country. The Honourable Gentleman then in a rapid strain of eloquence, which it would be difficult to transcribe, confuted the assertions of the Ministry, that if all the taxes were to be taken off, it would yield no relief to the farmer; he would simply ask the plain question, if more money were taken out of a man's pocket to pay the taxes with than was necessary, would not there be less in it to pay other things with? But it was unnecessary for him to occupy the time of the Meeting by attempting to refute arguments so futile, for that Meeting was not composed of great men yet they were at least endowed with common sense (*applause*). Nor would it be necessary, after the able exposition of his venerable friend, for him to dwell upon the causes that had induced the general distress, but he could not avoid referring to the attempts made to put down the right of the people to petition; and in doing this, he could not refrain from alluding to the dreadful transactions at Manchester, on the 16th of August, where the people legally assembled constitutionally to discuss their grievances and to consider of the propriety of a petition to Parliament for relief; they were dispersed, and inhumanly delivered over to the hands of military execution. He would ask what was the conduct of the House of Commons on this occasion? Instead of vindicating the rights of the people, by punishing the Magistrates ordering, or the soldiers executing, they immediately passed acts to indemnify any Magistrates that hereafter might act in a similar manner from all imputation of wrong (*applause*). He considered that the country must feel grateful to the Sheriff for his readiness in calling the Meeting, but he thought it hard the people should be so restricted as to be under the necessity of applying to any man whether they might or might not meet together to discuss their grievances. Mr. Fox had said, that the right of meeting and petitioning must be preserved; for the maintenance of that right was more essential to the freedom of the country, than the maintenance of any other of our civil institutions; and that any encroachment of that right would be taking away the ladder by which England had ascended to her glorious height of civil liberty, that it would be like taking away branches and stripping off the bark from the tree, and thereby causing that tree to fall to decay. It had been said, that a Reform in Parliament was a wild, visionary, and romantic measure; but he would ask, was it so romantic or so visionary as the conduct of a man sent to Parliament to represent hundreds and thousands of persons, instead of which, his only consideration was how to get back the hundreds or thousands of pounds which it had cost to get a seat there. Ministers had recently attempted to vindicate their corruption, by asserting that unless they had a majority of votes (as it were at command) to support the influence of the Crown, the Government could not be carried on; of this every body was aware, and also that it was not very desirable it should be carried on in the way it was at present (*great applause*). A Reform would alter the system entirely, and the Government might then be carried on without the Crown being under the necessity of maintaining so expensive an influence; and was it not too much to see the property of the industrious

farmer and others seized, and the pittance wrung from the hard earning of the labourer, to support a corrupt and profligate government? The Honourable Gentleman concluded an eloquent appeal, amid the applause of the Meeting, by declaring, that the only means of preserving the remnants of their personal prosperity and the respectability of the country was a Reform in Parliament.

The Sheriff then read over the following Resolutions and Petition.

"Resolved,—That Agriculture, the great source of national wealth, is in a very depressed state, and that the farmers are in such distress, that they can apprehend nothing but ruin to themselves and families, unless some effectual remedy be speedily applied.

"Resolved,—That the Agricultural interest is oppressed with a load of taxation, greater than it is able to bear, in consequence of which neither the landlord can receive a compensation for his land in the rent, nor the farmer a remuneration for his labour and the employment of his capital, in the price of the produce.

"Resolved,—That this state of things, which spreads distress among all classes of the community, would not have happened if the people had been properly represented in Parliament, as the origin of it may be traced to the abuse of the funding system, in mortgaging the revenues of the country beyond its natural resources.

"Resolved,—That it is a fundamental principle of the Constitution, as handed down to us from our ancestors, that the people shall have a share in the Government; by a just and fair representation in Parliament.

Resolved,—That the only effectual relief which can be afforded to the country in its present state of distress, and the only prevention of the evils for the time to come, are to be sought in retrenchment and Reform, in a reduction of taxation, and a more equal representation of the people.

"That it is the imperious duty of every one who values his country, and regards his best interest, to use his utmost endeavours to procure a reduction of taxation, and a Reform in Parliament, as the only means of saving the country, and of restoring it to a state of prosperity and happiness.

"Resolved,—That a petition be founded on the above Resolutions, and such Petition having been read,

"Resolved,—That the Petition now read be adopted.

"Resolved,—That the Petition be presented to the House of Commons by the County Members.

"CHRISTOPHER PEMBERTON, Under Sheriff.

"Resolved,—That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Sheriff for his readiness in convening the same, and to the Under Sheriff for his courteous and manly conduct during the proceedings of the day."

PETITION.

"TO THE HONOURABLE THE COMMONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED;

"The humble Petition of the Freeholders, Farmers, and others, Inhabitants of the County of Huntingdon;

"Sheweth,—That your Petitioners, by the depression of the Agricultural and Landed Interest, are reduced to a state of great distress, having for several years past been selling their produce, not only without a remunerating price, but at a price less than the expence at which it is raised. In this alarming state of things, your Petitioners apprehend nothing but certain ruin to themselves and their families, and to the community at large, unless an effectual remedy be speedily applied.

"That, conceiving the distress to arise from excessive Taxation, a Taxation greater than the country is able to bear, your Petitioners humbly pray for a reduction of Taxes, a retrenchment in the Expences of every Department of the State, and a strict Economy in the expenditure of the Public Money, as the most effectual and certain means of affording them substantial Relief.

"Furthermore, that to prevent a recurrence of the same distress for the time to come, your Petitioners intreat your Honourable House to take into its most serious consideration the urgent necessity for a reform in Parliament, for a more full, fair, and equal Representation of the People, humbly conceiving that it is to the imperfect and unequal state of Parliamentary Representation, that the alarming National Debt, the overwhelming Taxation, and the consequent evils which afflict the country, and which more particularly affect the Agricultural and Landed Interest, are primarily and principally to be ascribed.

"And your Petitioners will ever pray."

Mr. MARGETTS (from under the Gallery) said he had not heard the Resolutions read, he had only heard the Petition. He expressed his opinion that mentioning Reform in the Petition did much more harm than good to the cause which it was intended to remedy (disapproba-

tion, with cries of "come forward," and room was made for him in the Jury box.) Mr. M. continued.—He was fully aware of the existing distresses of the country, particularly as it respected the farmer; he was sorry that the more respectable part of the agriculturists were not in attendance to express their opinion upon the subject; he, however, thought that their Petition ought not to mention Reform (much hissing).—They were in need of Parliamentary aid, and therefore they ought merely to state their grievances, and leave it to the wisdom of the Honourable House to apply the remedy (bursts of laughter and hissing). Mr. M. continued.—He expected to have a fair hearing, but it seemed that all were on one side (applause). He considered that it was owing to a seditious and discontented spirit which had shewn itself amongst many persons, that we are involved in the present distresses (disapprobation); it was through that discontented and seditious spirit the late war was prolonged, and Bonaparte's power, by which all the evils were entailed on the country. He again expressed his disapprobation of the introduction of the word Reform in the Petition; he considered that a graduated duty on the importation of foreign corn, and bounty on the exportation of British corn, were the only means likely to afford relief (general disapprobation.)

The SHERIFF observed, if the Learned Gentleman intended to make an Amendment he must make a distinct motion on the subject.

Mr. MARGETTS said that he had just put his ideas on paper, but they were in too crude a state to be laid before the Meeting. He should therefore move, that a Committee be appointed to draw up a Petition expressive of the confidence of the meeting in Parliament, stating the general distress, and praying for a bounty on the exportation of British grain, and a duty on the importation of foreign.

The SHERIFF asked if any body seconded the Amendment? and no one answering, the original Resolutions were carried, Mr. Margetts alone holding up his hand against them.

Mr. S. WELLS said, that when he entered the Hall he was fully aware of the full exposition which would be made, and therefore did not intend making any observations, as he was sure it would be well treated; but after the extraordinary assertions that had fallen from the Worthy Alderman, his Learned Friend, he would trouble the Meeting with a few remarks. The Worthy Alderman had stated, that all the evils now pressing upon the people were occasioned by a seditious spirit. He knew what his Learned Friend the Worthy Alderman meant; it was the terrible Reformers, who, because they opposed corruption, were stigmatised with the appellation of the seditious. But it was nothing new at different periods, to be called by different names; indeed, the very dictionary seemed exhausted. For instance, 16 years ago, when he (Mr. W.) first came to Huntingdon, he was designated a democrat, soon after he was called a jacobin—then, for about four years he was a leveller and a Reformer, till at length they invented the word radical; "and here," said Mr. W. "I now stand a confirmed Radical (cheers and laughter)." They all know, that speaking of County Meetings, a Noble Duke had said, that they were mere farces: but had he, in the plenitude of his splendour, been present that day, and had witnessed the mirth, the extraordinary exhibition of his Learned Friend the Worthy Alderman, he would have ranked this higher on the stage, by designating it a Comedy (much laughter). The Learned Gentleman, then went on to point out the defects in the Representative system. Sixteen years ago, the two Members for the Town, and the two for the County, were regularly sent by the family of Montague (Mr. Margetts—deceptions) without ever consulting the people they were sent to represent, and for thus sending the four Members, that House had received 200,600*l.* (Mr. Margetts—Quit deceptions). The Learned Gentleman might say deceptions, but if he would wait a little, he would prove it— from 1807 to 1817, the Earl of Sandwich received 2500*l.* a year as Postmaster General three years previous he had annually a pretty round sum per annum for a snug post, called the Keeper of the Buck Hounds. —The Noble Earl was now gone (he, Mr. W. wished to say nothing ill of the dead, but he was drawn into the discussion by his injudicious friend). The Meeting would, however, see, that the Earl had drawn a very considerable sum of the public money, setting aside the snug little patronage. Now, it was generally known, that the Earl, though a very good sort of man, was by no means a man of talents at least of such talents as qualified him to become a Minister. He would ask, then, if there had been a Reform in Parliament, would the country for so many years have been burthened with a Minister without talents, who would rather enumber than expedite public business? In fine, it was for the service the Noble Lord's votes rendered the Minister, and not for the aid of his talents, that he received so much money.—The Duke of Manchester, a branch of the family of Montague, received from 1803 to 1821, 10,000*l.* a year as Governor of Jamaica, which ought, out of its own proceeds, to have paid its own Governor—his brother, as soon as he was born (and he had almost said before he was born, for the place was got ready for him), had a birth in the Customs at 10 or 1200*l.* a year (applause.) He (Mr. Wells) thought that was the seditious spirit which had brought ruin upon the country, and he would again ask, would

these sums have been paid to this or any other family for doing next to nothing, but for the venal and corrupt boroughmongering system? His Learned Friend had said that he wished to see a reduction in the expenditure. Mr. W. wished to see a Reform; for he would show that no reduction in the expenditure could be made, to afford any relief; he had stated this at the late Stilton Meeting, and he would again repeat it. The expenditure is now 53 millions; the greatest reduction talked of (as possible to be made) by Mr. Hume, and the Worthy Representative for the County of Huntingdon, Lord J. Russell, was 5 millions, and the Sinking Fund 5 more, making a reduction of 10 millions; consequently leaving 43 millions to be paid with prices of produce the same as in 1792, when the yearly expenditure was only 16 millions. Mr. Fellows, the other Member for the County, supports the system of keeping up the Sinking Fund of 5 millions, and no doubt believes such a fund does exist, when in reality there is no such thing; how is it likely, when the Government is now negotiating a loan of 4 millions with the Bank, that they have a surplus revenue? What would Mr. Pashler or Mr. Veasey, the bankers, think of a person going to them to borrow 400l. knowing this same person to have 500l. of ready money from his surplus income in his hands, and for which he could not find any use? He had said before the expenditure was 53 millions, take off 10 and there remain 43 millions; and in 1792 the expenditure was only 16 millions, therefore he would ask, how could this increase of 27 millions, since 1792 be paid at prices the same as in 1792? If this was all that could be done, farmers must go into the workhouse. The dividends, we are told, are always paid to the stockholder, &c. Yes, but how are they paid? By forestalling, by mortgaging on the Old Lady in Thread-needle-street for four quarters to come. We owed this Lady nine millions last year which we could not pay. We owe four millions out of our own pocket-money. We owe that bloated Company, the East India Company, two millions, for letting them have a monopoly on tea. And we owe in the shape of notes of hand 35 millions, all which is totally unprovided for. He would explain to them the meaning of Exchequer Bills. Suppose a farmer could not pay his blacksmith's bill, he gave a note of hand for it, that would be as it were his Exchequer Bill, and must be paid, and so must the millions of Government Exchequer Bills now out, yet Ministers talk of a surplus revenue (applause). Ministers persist in refusing to take off the tax upon salt, which would afford relief to the farmer, under the pretext of keeping up a Sinking Fund, which does not exist. Mr. Wing, in an excellent and an eloquent speech, had exhorted them to be firm in pressing for a Reform; he would exhort them to reform themselves; he would call upon every man who had the right of voting, to lay aside all private expectation of gain or patronage for their children, and instead of saying to themselves "how much can I get for my vote?" ask themselves "what will this or that man do for the benefit of his country?" Let them consider, that in the act of voting, they tacitly take an oath to discharge their duty as honestly as they took it as jurors in that box; they would then reap the benefit of their integrity. So long as he (Mr. W.) resided in the county, he would endeavour to bring forward an honest man both town and county; they should always have an election—so that if they chose to vote honestly they might have an opportunity; and if they voted otherwise, the fault would be their own, and if they fell, they would fall unlamented and unpitied. The distress of the country, he considered, had not yet reached its height;—May, 1823, would be the trial, when the Bank of England and the Country Banks would be obliged to pay in gold; since it was by the issues of the Country Banks they were alone enabled to carry on the exchange of business and the common intercourse of life. Mr. W. regretted the absence of Lord John Russell at a Meeting, which had for its object the cause in which his Lordship was so deeply interested; he regretted that his absence was occasioned by illness; but had he been there, and seen how hearty his constituents were in the cause, he thought it would have done him more good than the sea breezes of any place he could visit. After some further observations, the Learned Gentleman concluded by saying he had nothing to do with the Petition to the House of Commons, for he had determined not again to petition that House, as he did not recognise it.

The Rev. D. B. WELLS rose merely, he said, to propose that the Petition just read be presented to the House of Commons, by the Members for the County. And inasmuch as the name of Mr. Fellows formed a part of the business of the day, a letter from that Gentleman having been read, he trusted he should be allowed to say a few words regarding his conduct.

The SHERIFF here interfered, to ask if the Rev. Gentleman intended to conclude with any resolution on the business of the day?

Mr. WELLS said the Resolution he intended to propose, was what he had stated, that of proposing that the Petition be presented by the County Members. He would not, after the excellent Speech which the Meeting had heard, trespass upon their time further, than to make the observations he was about to do respecting Mr. Fellows. That Gentleman, when a motion was made to repeal the Salt Tax, thought proper not to vote either for or against it. He would ask, did this show his

attention to the welfare of the agriculturists? It was in his power to have rendered them a service by voting for the repeal of that Tax which pressed so heavily upon that part of the community which he was sent to Parliament to represent. It had been stated by a Learned Gentleman, Mr. Margate, that this Meeting did not comprise the more respectable part of the Agriculturists. He would say to that Gentleman, in answer to this objection, that this Meeting did comprise respectable Agriculturists, and that if Country Gentlemen did not agree with the proceedings about to take place, why did they not come forward manfully and state their dissent in the face of the County? Whatever might be their opinion, however, he was decided that excessive taxation was the sole cause of distress, and the only remedy.—a Reform in Parliament.

Mr. THOMAS DAY observed, he was unaccustomed to public speaking, he was a farmer, and was about to address a few words to farmers. He wished to ask, what are we to think, when we are told by profound Statesmen and Lawgivers, that an abundant harvest is an evil? He would ask, what are we to think of men who preach such doctrines so contrary to nature, so contrary to the prayers of every farmer and every poor man, whose hopes are always placed on the expectation of having a good harvest, and a fine time to gather it in? It was his opinion that these profound politicians had made a small mistake, he could not but think they meant an abundant crop of taxes, instead of abundant crops of corn had occasioned the evil (a laugh). It had always been his opinion, that the landholder would ruin the farmer; and he thought he was right; for the landed proprietor seldom paid any attention to the welfare of the farmer. This was apparent to-day, for he saw no landed proprietor present to consult with the experienced agriculturist on the cause and remedy of the distress. He would not detain the Meeting longer, but to express his opinion that the farmers hope always had been, and always would be, he trusted, on the goodness of Providence in sending a plentiful harvest.

Mr. S. WELLS proposed that the Thanks of the Meeting be given to the High Sheriff, for his readiness in calling the Meeting, and to the Sub-Sheriff, for his impartial conduct this-day.

Mr. PEMBERTON, Sub-Sheriff, returned thanks, and the Meeting was dissolved.

Fair Offer.

The proposal in the following Letter ought more properly to have been submitted to THE COUNTESS than to me. Perhaps, however, he may have already been made acquainted with it:—

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle.

SIR,
Goldsmith remarked, long ago, that Croker came in rhyme with Joker—a coincidence rendered still more striking by some of the late debates on Mr. Hume's Amendments, in the House of Commons; to which place we naturally look for the comic part of the Ministerial arguments. To the columns of the COURIER we as naturally look for the serious part, and we find it at least as successfully carried on. In particular, I have been much struck with a passage which I met with this evening, though, indeed, the argument has appeared in that Paper, under different shapes, more than once. It is substantially as follows:—

"The distress of the Agriculturists arises from the badness of the market, and the badness of the market from the deficiency of consumption; hence, if the Agricultural Taxes be reduced by a diminution of expenditure, the persons so thrown out of public employ cannot consume—the market is further deteriorated—and the Agricultural distress increased.

If you feel convinced by this reasoning, the following offer will perhaps be acceptable to you. I cannot afford to take in a daily Paper, though I occasionally see THE COURIER, through the kindness of an opulent friend—a late holder of Five per Cents. Now, if you will give me a pension of half-a-crown per day, I am willing to take in, and pay for, one MORNING CHRONICLE every morning. It is plain that this must increase your sale, and be, upon the above principles, extremely lucrative to you. If you agree to this, be pleased to signify so much; if not, some of your brother Journalists may possibly be induced to close with the proposal, on seeing it announced in your Paper.

Your obedient servant,

E.

April 4, 1822.

Probably, if you give the person who brings the Paper and money to me 1s. 6d. per day, he may be prevailed upon to lay out part of the sum in a MORNING CHRONICLE for himself.

* Croker.—Poor Dick Doleful! he used to say that Croker came in rhyme with Joker, and then we used to laugh (begins to cry).—Good-natured Man.

ASIATIC DEPARTMENT.

—105—

On Indian Boards.

"A stranger, taking a view of the different Provinces at the present day, would no where discern the regular operation of a steady principle; but almost every where a fluctuating system of expedients adapted barely to present exigencies, without any ulterior scope; he would observe a system of temporary arrangements, such as might lead him to infer, that the Country had been but recently obtained, and was again on the point of being transferred."—*THE MORUSILLITE.*

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

It is now a considerable time since I addressed a letter to you on my Journey from Calcutta to the Upper Provinces, giving you a short description of the delightful station of *M—* r, (delightful in scenery and climate, but in nothing else,) and intending to have followed it up by a series of letters from the other stations at which I touched, had not circumstances intervened to prevent me, the nature of which it is not necessary here to particularize. Enough that I inform you that ever since the above period I have been moving about thro' the central provinces of India, endeavouring to obtain correct information on the actual state of the Country, with regard both to its cultivation and resources, and to the internal administration of Justice and of the Revenue, under a promise of transmitting all such information to a Friend in England, who is now composing a Work on Indian Affairs, under the auspices of one of the most active and enlightened Members of the Court of Proprietors.

From what I have here said, you may infer that the materials which I have been able to collect in the course of my peripatations, are likely to be laid before the public in a more imposing shape than a mere Newspaper letter: but I could not refrain from giving publicity to a few hints on *Indian Boards* at the present moment, in the hope that my letter may be so fortunate as to attract the notice of the illustrious Nobleman now at the head of this Government, before his departure; being well aware that our new Governor General is himself so partial to *Boards* that we dare hardly expect that he should view the subject with unbiassed feelings, but to come to the point at once, and not to mince the matter, I venture to affirm from the local knowledge and experience I have acquired, that both the Company's *Stud*, and the Public Revenue would be infinitely benefitted, if the *Board of Superintendence* in the former instance, and the *Board of Commissioners* in the latter, were entirely abolished! and until this take place I boldly assert that neither the one nor the other will ever attain that perfection of which it is capable.

The consideration of the *Stud* I shall waive for the present; but with respect to the Revenue. I may be permitted to observe that during no period of Indian History, could the country boast of so many able and efficient Collectors as at the present moment; but unfortunately, their abilities are rendered unavailable, their energies are paralyzed, and their hands tied, by the injudicious interference of the *Board*.

From what I have myself seen at the different Stations I have visited, it appears that the whole of the time of the Collector is taken up in replying to long-winded letters and references from the *Board*, on subjects of the most trifling nature: but this is not the worst of it, it sometimes happens that an Individual who has passed nearly the whole of his official life in the Upper Provinces is appointed a Member of a *Board* in the Lower Provinces, and he comes down with his head filled with up-country ideas and systems, and with a determination to introduce them here, without reflecting for a moment that the manners and customs of the people, and even the tenures by which they hold their lands, are totally different; that, in short, there are not two points of resemblance between them in any respect, and that consequently the measures which would be proper and judicious in the Upper Provinces, are injurious and even ruinous in the Lower Provinces.

Hence, new plans are tried, and again abandoned, causing not only a loss of time and waste of labor, but likewise, that mischief and injury to the public service which always result from the failure of every public experiment, and producing an un-

steady and vacillating system of operations, such as has already been commented on by your Correspondent who has written on the "*Adawlut System*," and from whom I have borrowed my motto for this Letter. In travelling through one of the northern districts I was shocked to observe large quantities of grain rotting on the *Koniamur*,* and roofless and deserted huts in all directions: and on inquiring of the few Inhabitants remaining, I was told that this grain had been attached by the Collector by order of the *Board*, in consequence of the Zemindar not having paid his Revenue to Government, although the poor Ryots had paid every pice of rent due to him long ago; and that owing to this hardship and injury, a great number of miserable starving wretches had abandoned their homes and sought refuge within the Nepaul territory. The next thing will be that the estate falls out of cultivation, and ultimately, after passing through different hands, the Government will be obliged to make a new assessment at one half of what it produced before.

Another very reprehensible practice is that of deputing *Sazmoons* to attach a whole estate, because one of the shareholders may have fallen in arrears. This may do in the Upper Provinces where landed property is held by *Aumils*, or where the whole belongs to one Individual;—but in districts where the *Puttydarrie* System prevails, nothing can be more impolitic, nor more injurious. In a village of *tenny* *Putties* for instance, it is depriving *nineteen* Individuals of their property and livelihood, for the sake of one defaulter! Why not at once put up for sale the property of the defaulter? Indeed, I would strongly recommend to Government to do away with all these innovations, all these temporizing experiments: they answer no purpose but to irritate the landed proprietors, and to make them disaffected to the Government under which they live. The assessment in general throughout the Company's Provinces has been so lightly made, that there are few Zemindars who could not with ease pay the whole of their yearly Revenue, before the half became due; but we all know how fond the Natives are of procrastinating, particularly in money payments, and how heedless they are of future evils, while they continue in undisturbed possession of present enjoyment. In fact nothing can rouse them from their apathy, that is not instantaneous in its effects, and for this reason the threat that is held out to them in the shape of a quarterly or half yearly Proclamation, measuring some twenty yards in length, and containing the names of almost all the villages in each district, as being for sale at some distant period, for arrears of Revenue, has long ceased to have the least effect. It is in fact a mere Bug-bear to which the *Native Gentlemen* are now so accustomed that they mind it not.

On the other hand, if Government would but authorize a Collector to sell every estate that falls in arrears, at his own discretion and on his own responsibility, without any tedious reference to the *Board*, I will be bound to say that not a rupee of arrears would be outstanding in any part of the country, nor would a single estate be sold after the expiration of the first year.

The opinions of an anonymous writer may have no weight; but let Government apply to the well-informed and experienced Collectors of Revenue that are now to be found all over the Country, and I will forfeit my existence if their sentiments on this subject, are not in concordance with my own.

In the *Mofussil*.

PERAMBULATOR.

* Small elevated pots on which the Natives beat oat and winnow their grain.

Births.

On the 6th instant, Mrs. GEORGE STRAFFORD, of a Daughter. At Madras, on the 16th ultimo, the Lady of Captain HITCHINS, of a Son.

Deaths.

At Muttra, on the 7th ultimo, CHARLES BELL, third Son of Captain ROBERT ARDING THOMAS, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment.

At Benares, on the 29th ultimo, Captain JAMES McHARG, of the 6th Regiment of Native Infantry, and Commandant of the 2d Nusserev Battalion.

Merchant of Venice.

CRITIQUE ON THE PERFORMANCE AT DUM DUM.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

It has been generally admitted, that Dramatic Exhibitions, beside affording a rational source of amusement, have a considerable influence on public morals. It is true the Greek Stage only taught the propriety of the meeting human events with resolution, deeming all the accidents of life as the fixed decrees of heaven, setting aside the idea of moral conduct, and supposing virtue and vice to spring immediately from the Gods. Thus *Œdipus* is represented as the victim of fate: ignorant of the intention of parricide, when he slew him in an affray, as well as of incest, when he married *Jocasta*. Yet he is represented, labouring under the effects of horror, equal to the pangs of remorse, when the soul, conscious of guilt, shudders at the recollection of the premeditated offences it had conceived and executed. Confused ideas of having been converted into the instrument of divine vengeance, which could only be a misfortune, and the criminality of guilt, were united into a regular system of fatality. Modern ethics pursue a more regular course, and trace the miseries of life to vice and indiscretion: man is no longer supposed to be like a machine, but possessing the power of reason, the privilege of thought, and the freedom of action, he becomes in a great measure the architect of his own fate, and certainly the master of his moral conduct. It has therefore been an object with Dramatic Writers, to represent in the deepest colours, the vices that destroy virtue; as well as the follies and indiscretions that lead to misery. Shakespear excels all the Poets with whom I am acquainted, in delineating the human passions, for he,

"Knew all qualities with a learned spirit of human dealings."

In every touch he displays the hand of a Master, the investigation of a Philosopher, and the talents of a Poet. The divine purity of his genius, however, was sullied by an intercourse with the world, and he perverted his fine abilities, to please the gross and vulgar fancies of the times. Thus, to command applause, he introduced into his plays indecent expressions, and descended to vile jokes, that seem to have sprung from the efforts made to acquire notoriety. It is however true, that an Author must sacrifice to the reigning taste, and that when Shakespear wrote, and long after, a licentious freedom of speech and indecent allusions were substituted for Wit, and generally succeeded better, because they were more universally understood.

The Merchant of Venice is a strange composition, uniting a variety of characters, who pass through many amusing scenes; but on the story of the Jew, on his presence, and action, rest all the interest of the play. The Jews were perhaps the most persecuted and oppressed of the children of men:—without a country or a home, contempt attended their footsteps, extortion pursued their gains, and justice receded from their approach. Outcasts from the world, they neither partook of the joys of social intercourse, nor of the protecting equity that governed the transactions of commercial life; and on these accounts the natural cast of their minds was perverted. Gold seemed to them the Sovereign that controlled all things, and they sought it with avidity. Oppression inspired hatred, and in their weakness they brooded over their wrongs, until revenge wore the aspect of virtue.

In *Shylock*, this character is truly portrayed, for Gold is his God, and revenge his religion, and he struggles almost to convulsion between love and the mysteries of devotion.

Mr. Franklin's representation of this character was bold and original. The humility of a mind constrained, by powerful later checks, to assume an abjectness of address, while the recollection of injuries still burned on the memory, was impressively exhibited, in the speech;

"Signor Antonio, many a time and oft,
On the Rialto, you have rated me
About my monies and my usances.
Still have I borne it with a patient shrug
(For sufferance is the badge of all our tribe)
You call me misbeliever, cut-throat dog
And spit upon my Jewish gaberdine;
And all for use of that which is my own."

Then the impetuous feelings of indignation at the real insults; and triumph at the necessities of his enemy, were equally characteristic.

"Well then, it now appears you need my help;
Go to then;—you come to me, and you say,
Shylock, we would have monies—you say so—
You that did void your rheum upon my beard
And foot me as you spurn a stranger cur
Over your threshold—money is your suit:
What should I say to you? should I not say
Hath a dog money? is it possible,
A cur can lend three thousand ducats?"

The assumed jocoseness, when he proposed the penalty, showed a nice discrimination; it was not pleasure, but it seemed like an ironical sneer at the weakness of Christians, in supposing human flesh of any value, while it truly spoke internal exultation at the conception of his malignant project. The interview with *Tubal* is one of extreme difficulty. The sudden transition from one feeling to another; the fluctuation of the mind between two powerful emotions, was well conceived and executed? In the Court where the Jew towers in all the terrific grandeur of a fiend, crowned with success: then defeated in his hopes, and ruined in his fortune, beholding his treasure, his God, and his religion fading from his view: he sinks into the abjectness of vice, and clings to the world. The powers of the Actor were not only displayed in this Scene, but a beautiful perception of the varying passions, a power of expression, and a force of thought, that could only result from talent improved by study.

Bassanio is the most natural character in the play; without affectation, he expresses his feelings, and is elevated or depressed with circumstance: Mr. Faucet did ample justice to the part, and shewed good playing, united with feeling. It is in such situations, that good playing becomes evident.

The gay fluttering *Gratiano* was well-supported by Mr. Blackmore; it is a part in which few performers can shine, as pretensions are perpetually made at low wit. Yet Mr. Blackmore has succeeded in giving great effect to the character. Antonio in the fullness of prosperity whines without cause, and in distress is as senseless as a Stoic: we feel little for him, because he does not feel for himself. The part was sustained by Mr. Bagelly, with considerable promise, being a first appearance.

Mr. Provan ran through the part of *Launcelot* with infinite success, exhibiting the acute perception, the broad humour, and the pedantic propensities of an unlettered clown, in a fine comic vein.

Mrs. Francis, as *Portia*, developed greater powers than she had heretofore evinced. In the early part of the play, she looked very interesting, and in the Court Scene, delivered that beautiful address to the Jew on Mercy, with energy and pathos; none but a heart steeled with vice, could unmoved have heard her utter,

The quality of Mercy is not strained;
It droppeth, as the gentle rain from heaven,
Upon the place beneath; it is twice bless'd:
It bleaseth him that gives, and him that takes.

There is something so lovely in the mental delicacy of women, that I cannot endure its profanation, therefore it would have been well had the denouement taken place here, and that we had been spared the Garden Scene. For my part I should have wished to have retired, while my fancy was sketching the beautiful portrait of *Portia*, that Shakespear delineated, and Mrs. Francis personified, without the advantage of new light, and

that the qualities of her mind might have seemed as perfect as her person; but this delusion was not permitted, and when she arrived at the garden, she flung aside the modesty that casts a sacred charm round the sphere of beauty: refined habits yielded to vulgar feelings, and the expressions of virtue were superseded by the language of a courtesan.

Mrs. Hart gave much effect to the character of Jessica: it is a pleasure to find the opinion formerly expressed, respecting her powers, has been in a great measure justified.

Mrs. Rees personated Nerissa with spirit; she had the quickness, vivacity, and sharpness of wit essential to that character; and in a similar line, there is no doubt that she will be equally successful.

The Scenery was admirably executed, the Venitian views truly characteristic, and the management well arranged.

It is with some pleasure, that I have seen one of the plays of our immortal Bard successfully exhibited; and I have only to hope that something like good taste will for the future prevent the introductions of miserable Dramas without plot, character, incident, or interest; those catch-penny productions, the mere offerings of poverty or avarice to novelty. For us, the field is ample, all the perfections of the British Stage lie before us: Let us therefore seek novelty in perfection, let us shew that we have minds to comprehend, judgement to select, and taste to enjoy, the refined productions of human Genius.

CRITICUS.

Match Makers.

To the Editor of the Journal,

SIR,

Your valuable Paper has been our Champion on many occasions, and has at times been the means of giving us good lectures; but as there are a set of married men, in this famous "City of Palaces" who are occupied mostly in endeavouring to make matches, and also in breaking matches, it would not be unamusing to give an outline of their manœuvres. They are naturally very officious, and have an impudence about them not to be supported; and being married men, have certain privileges: it is customary with them to force themselves to the notice of those Ladies who have a Daughter, Niece, Cousin, or a Scotch Cousin in their family, particularly if the young Lady is an Heiress, or has any property coming to her. After a certain time, when they are pretty familiar, he very politely invites them to Tea at his House, and the same Evening appoints a number of young Gentlemen to the party, when he takes a good opportunity of praising the Ladies, and arranges matters so well that they are seated together at Tea and Music. The Farce continues, and the next day he visits both the Lady and the young Gentleman, telling each other that they are smitten with their charms; message after message, and a thousand other machinations are practised, till the young couple are fairly caught, and all the etiquette among the elders of both he family finally arranged.

It is then the Match-maker aspires to be a "TRUSTEE," but the proceeding in this matter is done in such a masterly style that there is no refusing; the young couple, from gratitude, dare not say no; and the prudent Aunt, seeing her Niece so well to be settled through the interference of the Match-maker, does not hesitate to perform her part. In this interval, if aught is said, he endeavours to break the match for a petty commission only, which he would derive, from having the funds as a Trustee in his hands. Such, Mr. Editor, is the life of the Match-maker: they say that since trade is low, a fair commission in buying the requisites of a house, and a commission in paying them the half-yearly interest is a good job. I have to warn Mothers who have Daughters, Aunts who have handsome Nieces or Cousins residing with them, not to allow such a class of beings as these to enter beneath their roofs.

JUDITH EVERBLUE.

To Civis.

Ægis is well aware of the danger attending improper discussions on Military subjects: but he thanks Civis for his friendly caution, and he will deliberate before he determines—he has been sometime in the Army and has learned that he is less free than a simple citizen: but it is not on regulations or particular instances of conduct that Ægis would comment: it is to the notions entertained by many regarding their duties and regarding the nature and extent of the Commanding Officer's authority, that he would draw attention, he would have this letter so clearly defined that no misconception would henceforward take place: but being diffident of his own knowledge, he proposed to do this by questions which he hoped would be answered. That this is a desirable object occurrences sufficiently prove. Ægis has no reason to be dissatisfied with his own immediate Commanding Officer, on the contrary he respects him as a soldier and esteems his worth as a man, and if Civis imagines that Ægis would go still further and attack the highest authority, he informs him that even if the conduct of the present Commander in Chief were vulnerable (and every man in this Army will declare at once that it is not) Ægis whether in a public or private capacity would be the last to attack it: for (he says it with gratitude and veneration) he has received the greatest obligation from him that one man can possibly receive from another: but his Lordship is so much in the habit of doing good actions that this acknowledgement will hardly lead to the discovery of

ÆGIS.

Mathematicks.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

Mr. HUDSON's second record of his own blind carelessness is truly lamentable. In his first letter (to which I have replied) he declares that the perimeters of all polygons described about a given circle are greater than the perimeter of an Isosceles triangle whose base and altitude are each equal to the diameter of that circle, which is a false position; for, out of an infinite number of polygons, eight only have perimeters which exceed that of the said triangle, namely, the trigon, tetragon, &c. to decagon, inclusive, all others ad infinitum being less than the triangle; and the periphery of the circle is of course less than all.

In his letter, to which I now reply, in your Paper of the 15th, he publishes the notable discovery, that the triangle gives the least area, the polygons, in order, a succession of increasing areas, and the circle the greatest possible area, of regular figures, whose perimeters are equal. Astonishing discovery! How important a position in Mathematicks!

Now, your Correspondent having made this said discovery, was in the direct path to have accidentally met with the proof that his quadrature of the circle was erroneous; but his slovenly laziness stooped a step or two short of that simple explication. In short, he gives it as true, that the perimeters of the circle and triangle each equal 3.236 &c. when diameter is one. He then adds (which is true enough on these data) that the area of the circle, triangle, square, &c. of equal perimeters, are thus:

Of the Circle,	0.8090 &c.
Of the Triangle,	0.5
Of the Square,	0.6544 &c.
Of the Octagon,	0.7900 &c.

Now, if he had proceeded to the nonagon and decagon, he must have been startled at the rapid approach of the polygons to equality, in area, with his circle. In short, he would have found the area of the dodecagon to have been larger than that of his circle, the perimeters of both being the same, which is absurd; thus, the side of the dodecagon will be 0.26967233 &c. its square, 0.727231 &c. this square multiplied by 11.19615 &c. (the area, to side one, demonstrable by my former problem, infallible;) gives 0.8142 &c. for the area, more than 8090 &c. In short, the area of even the undecagon, with such data, will be more than that of the circle of equal periphery.

Thus, Mr. HUDSON's new position in *Mathematicks* completely overturns his new quadrature, and this new position is one upon which the veriest Tyro in the Science would be plucked at a public examination in *Mathematicks*, if he were found to be ignorant of it.

Kukhuta-krodak, Aug. 8, 1822.

TOBIAS.

Epidemic.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

As the learned Son of Ceres* has told us, that "Contagion is an old woman's bugbear, and Quarantine a source of grievous injury to all civilized nations;" it is a right to bring forward, by degrees, the opinions of other learned men.—For this purpose, I beg the favour of your publishing this extract, from the well-known Work of Mr. Jameson, on the Epidemic Cholera Morbus; and as he appears to be an advocate for its existence, a short essay on the subject from his pen might happily be obtained, and check this source of schism amongst Medical Men on account of their opinions.

A YOUNG PRACTITIONER.

Section 6.—Of the Contagious Nature of the Disease.

(*) The next point to be investigated, is, how far the pestilential virus of the disease was communicable by Contagion. If by Contagion is meant, the communication of the disorder from person to person, by means of contact or close conversation—then, in this strict sense of the word, Cholera is certainly not contagious. (†) In the absence of all positive proof, such a conclusion might have been fairly drawn, from its being observed, that in no quarter of India, during the time in which it was so sadly scourged by the disorder, did its infectious nature form any part of the popular belief. (‡) Amongst a rude and superstitious people, the unexampled mortality caused by it, was, according to the fancy of the individual, ascribed to fatality, to the agency of malignant spirits, or to the anger of an offended Deity: but it does not appear to have been once suspected, that its amount was increased or diminished, by the free or restrained intercourse of men. (§) It may be said, in diminution of the weight here attached to the popular persuasion, that the opinion of the vulgar is usually founded on misconception, or guided by caprice; and is therefore of little or no value. This is no doubt true, in respect of subjects, either foreign to their interests, or too recondite for their understandings. But, in matters of daily observation, and especially in those narrowly concerning the interests and safety of all, there is perhaps no fairer criterion of truth, than the common judgments of mankind. (¶) The progress of any generally fatal disorder is exactly of this description; and accordingly we find, by looking into the histories of all the great epidemical and infectious distempers, to which the human race is subject: as the plague, small pox, measles, and scarlet fever: that the people were never slow to discover their true nature, and ordinarily passed such judgments regarding them as corresponded, not merely with the opinions of more learned observers, but with the truth itself. (‡) So it is in the case of the present Epidemic. The whole body of the Medical Officers in Bengal, who have had an opportunity of seeing and remarking on the disease, without a dissenting voice, concur in declaring, that it is not contagious.†

* Doct. r Tyler, Author of the Cereal Doctrine.

† To this unanimity of conviction, there was originally one exception; but from more extended experience that individual has since modified his opinion.—Jameson's *Epid. Chol. Morb.*

HIGH WATER AT CALCUTTA THIS DAY.

	H.	M.
Morning,	10	13
Evening,	10	37
Moon's Age,	24 Days.	

Marine Registry Office.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

Having seen a Letter some days since in your JOURNAL signed RODMOND, in which he makes an invidious attack upon the Marine Registry Office, I am induced, in the absence of a more able pen, to offer a few remarks.

Lest RODMOND may get intoxicated with a false notion of success, I must first beg to say that I am persuaded nothing but utter contempt for him, has prevented those in whose power it is so easily to refute his inflated statements, from the trouble of doing so:

I will not occupy either your's or my own time in lengthened remarks on such a composition as he has sent forth, but by bringing to his notice one circumstance, which, as it has occurred since his epistle was ushered into the world, I hope will alone be conclusive against him, and I shall be content to leave him to his fate and meditations.

Many, Sir, are to be found who are ready with the unmeaning compliments of a "liberal and enlightened Government," but few who have sense to estimate, or disposition to enjoy its blessings. RODMOND, not content with being foremost in such ranks, has rendered himself perfectly ridiculous by the inconsistency contained in his letter; he has made an attempt at a compliment, and in the same breath, presumes at once to pass a censure on Government because he thinks an Institution ought to be abolished, an Institution at once useful to the Commercial Interests and meritorious in the protection it affords to an useful body of the community,—the Seafaring part of this port.

Let me ask RODMOND at whose desire and instigation was the Marine Registry Office instituted? Not by Government, for they needed it not; it was the Commercial Interest of Calcutta that did so, and that representation being made, was alone sufficient for this liberal and enlightened Government (in the true sense of the meaning) to give it its support and protection, and every one must be aware that they did not in their wisdom, upon such representation, then countenance and bring it forth to answer the intended purposes now to withdraw that protection upon the mere angry assertions of any RODMOND.

I now come to the last and most pleasing part of my intentions, the notice of (in my opinion) the grand defeat of RODMOND; that Government, which he has at the same time praised and censured, has, happily for the seafaring community, shewn itself their friend, by a determination of protecting their rights, in exacting implicit obedience to the rules of the Marine Registry Office, and in its usual liberality of sentiment, not even allowing their own ships to transgress with impunity. I beg to inform RODMOND (if it is possible he is ignorant of it,) that the DUTCHNESS OF ATHOL, Indiaman, has been detained in consequence of non-compliance with the rules of that Office, in which it must be presumed that Ship had injured the rights of seamen belonging to this port. This circumstance, I have no doubt, will speak volumes to any mind, except RODMOND's, whom I will anticipate in his reply of "its arising from a certain occurrence with the Custom House."

If, Sir, such should be his answer, as the circumstance I have mentioned is known throughout Calcutta, I leave him to the enjoyment of such a miserable subterfuge.

Your's obediently,

AN UNINTERESTED OBSERVER.

Sep. 6, 1822.

Death.

At Howrah, on the 4th instant, Captain EPHRAIM CROUCH, aged 66, who, through a laborious and chequered life, great part of which has been spent in the Bombay and Bengal Country Service, has always maintained the character of an upright and honest man. He was a native of Boston, and 44 years ago commanded a vessel belonging to that port.

Wreck of the Ship Fame.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

I avail myself of the first opportunity of forwarding to you, the distressing account of the total Wreck of the Ship FAME, Captain William Clark, off Sea Point, near Table Bay, Cape of Good Hope, and melancholy to relate, it has been the cause of consigning to an untimely grave Mrs. Ellen Mills, Edward H. Coffin, Esq. Purser and half Owner, Miss M. Banks, Master Mayoh, and four Invalid Soldiers. I sailed as Passenger on the FAME from Calcutta in February last, having touched at Madras; the number of Passengers were considerably augmented. Ten days after our leaving the latter port, Mr. Alexander Durwood, Chief Officer, (nephew of Doctor Gibbs, Bengal Establishment) died of apoplexy, a most promising young man, equally distinguished as an honorable and sincere Friend as an active, intelligent, and zealous Sailor. We arrived in Table Bay on the 21st of May, previous to which (for the last three weeks) we encountered most severe weather, broke the tiller, strained the Ship, and had one man killed and three severely hurt. You will favor me by giving the account a place in your JOURNAL, and be assured of its authenticity, as I was an unfortunate witness of the direful calamity.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient Servant,

On Board George 4th,
Madras, August 1822,

W. H. TONSON,
Late Q. M. Serj. Ben. Eur. Regt.

After undergoing the necessary repairs for prosecuting our passage to England, we weighed anchor on the morning of the 14th June, the Passengers enjoying the hope of a pleasant and speedy passage, the tender embrace of a fond parent, or warm reception from other beloved individuals after a long separation; but, sad reverse of fortune, horrible to relate, were changed to the most awful sensations and dreadful scene ever witnessed.

A few minutes before 8 o'clock the same night, in beating out to sea, with wind northerly, and a heavy swell rolling in shore, she missed stays, and notwithstanding every exertion by anchoring, &c. she drove on the most rocky part of Sea Point. At this calamitous and truly awful crisis, the consternation it occasioned can be better imagined than described. The greatest confusion ensued, the piercing shrieks of the Females, the melancholy cries of the Children, the consternation and bustle of the Passengers and Sailors, added to the short distance from the shore where the rocks were numerous and the breakers of a most fearful size, made our situation deplorable; indeed, whoever has not witnessed the like scene knows not all the horror and bitterness attached to it, and I am at a loss for language to give a just and feeling description of that awful night. After three guns (signals of distress) were fired, the fore and main mast were cut away. The Passengers at this time were all assembled in the Cuddy, as her lower deck was rapidly filling with water. The Boat on the larboard side was lowered (but owing to the confusion or some mismanagement) too precipitately, and Mr. Coffin, 3d Mate, and three Sailors were dashed into the water, and the boat swamped; with difficulty the latter, and 3d Mate got on board again, but Mr. Coffin was dashed against the ship's side, and immediately sunk; this, one of the Sailor's confidently asserts. It was Mr. C——'s intention to make for Table Bay, to send boats to our assistance; as there was none within five miles of us, or where one could possibly land. The premature death of this valuable young man, will be long remembered by the late Passengers of the FAME, as his constant study and care was their comfort, and I may with truth add, he was universally esteemed and will for a long time, by them, be sincerely regretted. When the report of his fate reached the Passengers, it caused great agitation, for we considered it as a prologue to our doom, and that he was only gone a short time before us.

To add to this scene of horror, about twenty minutes after the Ship struck, she heeled over on the starboard side, the bulwarks of which were immediately carried away. The

water nearly reaching midships, and a dreadful surf beating against her deck. From the dangerous situation of the Passengers (the chief part of whom remained in the cuddy until this dreadful catastrophe) it was necessary that some means should be quickly adopted to remove them, and as the females and children could not without great difficulty be lifted up the ship's side, Mr. Swindle, the Chief Officer, Mr. Keymer, and one or two more, generously volunteered their services, and succeeded in getting them up, with the exception of Mrs. Nugent and Mills, who could not be prevailed on to quit the cuddy. It is true the attempt at removing them was most dangerous, from the perilous situation of the Ship, as one slip would to a certainty cause destruction. Nothing could equal the cool intrepidity of Mr. Swindle, Chief Officer. I was an eye witness to the service he performed, and the danger he was exposed to, and it is my opinion, as well as that of many more, that were it not for his exertions (aided by Divine Providence), several females and children must inevitably have perished. This young man, though fortunate in the above instance, has been the reverse in others. He was 2d Mate of the GRACE, burnt on the Coast a few weeks before, Passengers all saved, but cargo and baggage destroyed. After the misfortune of the FAME, a passage was procured for him on the SOPHIA, but he unfortunately lost it, she having sailed while he was making purchases on shore.

Mrs. Nugent had a severe fall from the quarter deck down the companion ladder, she was senseless for two or three minutes—the deck below being nearly full of water, she must have perished, but for the timely assistance of an individual who succeeded in getting her up and placing her in the larboard cabin of the poop, (the only part of the cuddy at this time free from the ravages of the surf). Several persons endeavoured to prevail on Mrs. Mills to quit the cuddy, but, I regret to add, without effect; an attempt was made even to bring her into the larboard cabin of the poop, (where Mrs. Nugent and four female native servants were holding on to ring bolts), but she strongly resisted, and would not quit her hold of the cuddy table. This poor lady must have been swept away at a very early hour, as part of the cuddy table was seen floating past the wreck about 10 o'clock. The statement of this melancholy event will be a deep tale of sorrow to reach the ears of an affectionate husband, who looked forward with happiness to a restoration of her health and return to India; but hope is too often implanted by the hand of sorrow; it will however be a soothing consolation to know that the body has been found and was interred on the afternoon of the 21st June, at Cape Town Church yard in the most respectable manner possible.

A little after 10 o'clock all hopes of safety were abandoned, and Death stared us full in the face. It was the unanimous opinion, from the heavy rolls, that the Ship would separate, the stoutest heart felt appalled; shortly after this we were greatly cheered by the appearance of light on the shore, but on its increasing, it presented to our view numberless rocks and immense breakers. The only hope left (and that was entertained, but by a few) was that of the Ship holding out and not parting before boats arrived from Table Bay. We repeatedly cheered, (but melancholy was the tone), at last we had the heart-felt satisfaction to hear a voice from the shore say, "Boats are sent for; let not a man quit the Ship." This information was indeed a balm to our drooping spirits, the fore-part of the night was unusually cold, clinging to the Ship's sides exposed to a keen piercing wind, and the surf occasionally beating over us, together with the darkness of the night, the appearance of the rocks, and fearful size of the breakers, made our situation truly deplorable.

Towards one o'clock, the weather became much milder, and our hopes considerably increased by the faint glistering of the Soldiers' arms on the shore. From this we felt assurance that some steps had been taken to procure boats, and every eye was anxiously fixed on the point we expected them to come from. About 2 o'clock, the Ship bent dreadfully in midships, and the rolling and cracking of her bottom increased; she continued in this state until half past 3 o'clock, when the first boat made its appearance; a quarter of an hour after, three more

came in sight, and they were unanimously cheered three times, and a loud exclamation of "God bless you" ensued. At this time the Ship was very near parting. Thus, by the valour of those brave men who nobly volunteered their services at midnight, were saved the life of 128 souls, at the imminent risk of their own; had the ship parted previous to the arrival of the boats, or had the boats delayed three hours longer, every soul must have perished.

The 4 Invalids that were drowned were unable to quit their hammocks; but in justice to their comrades, I must say that every endeavour was made to get them up, but to no purpose, as the ship filled almost immediately after her striking. The greatest regularity prevailed in getting into the boats: the females and children were lowered into the first three. The Sailors and Invalids deserve the highest credit for their stability and orderly conduct at that critical time, each man lowered himself into the boats agreeably to the manner they were clinging to the ship's side. The boat commencing aft and so on to the fore parts of the Ship. The Chief Mate and Gunner were the last who left the wreck; the Passengers have lost all their baggage, very few of the things drifting on shore, and these were torn to pieces by the rocks and surf; the greatest sufferers are Mrs. M. Nugent, Banks, Superintending Surgeon Hamilton, Bengal Establishment, and Captain Moss, Royal Scots. Superintending Surgeon Owen's things were fortunately insured, otherwise his loss would have been very considerable. A great deal of specie has been lost. The Ship was principally loaded with Saltpetre and Indigo. She went to pieces in eleven hours after she first struck.

I cannot conclude without commenting on the noble exertions of Captain Kind, of the Brig OLIVE BRANCH; most fortunately for us he was returning from the Country where he had spent the day, at the moment we fired our Guns; he immediately proceeded to the next neighbourhood, roused the inhabitants, and procured lights; he then rode to Cape Town, proceeded to the Bay, and alarmed the Shipping. His manly conduct on that awful occasion can never be obliterated from the minds of those whom his exertions have saved from so awful death. To the Superintendent of the Whale Fishery we have likewise reason to be thankful, for the alacrity with which he dispatched his boats to our assistance. Much credit is due to the Detachment of the 40th Regiment, (having come double quick from Castle Barracks Cape Town in half an hour) to render every assistance that lay in their power. The exertions of the Officers of the above Regiment, and of the 55th were unceasing during the night.

The following is a list of the Passengers saved; Mrs. Nugent, Banks, Mosse, Owen, Clark;—Misses Hamiltons, Miss Owen;—Superintending Surgeon Owen, Madras Establishment, Superintending Surgeon Hamilton, Bengal Establishment, Captains Moss and Field, the former of the Royal Scots, the latter of the Bengal Army, Assistant Surgeon Hannay, ditto, Mr. Buck, Mr. Hamilton, junr. Mr. Caldicott, late Lieutenant Bengal Army, Mr. Tonson, late Quarter Master Serjeant, Bengal European Regt. Wife and two Children.—Four European Women, five native ditto, fourteen Children, and twenty two Invalid Soldiers. There was in all one hundred and thirty souls on board her when she struck. The Passengers have sailed for England on the ECLIPSE and SOPHIA, with the exception of Doctor Hamilton and family, Mrs. Nugent, and Captain Field, who await an opportunity.

Death.

At Colombo, on the 21d of July, in the 77th year of her age, JOHANNA BRINKMAN, Widow of the late JOHANNES WILHELMUS VAN CUYLENBURG, Esq. of Colombo.

BANK OF BENGALE RATES.

Discount on Private Bills,.....	6 per cent.
Ditto on Government Bills of Exchange,.....	5 per cent.
Interest on Loans on Deposit,.....	5 per cent.

Flood at Backergunge.

To the Editor of the Journal.

Sir,

The enclosed Lines were written a few days after the awful visitation they allude to, was first announced, and were then intended for submission to your columns; but so much was said by contemporary writers about the *fuss* that had been made, and so contradictory were the statements that appeared on the subject, that the Author was induced to lay them aside. The facts are now fully established, and if you think the verses worthy of admission, they are at your service.

I am, your's faithfully,

August 28, 1822.

H.

LINES OCCASIONED BY THE LATE AWFUL FLOOD AT BACKERGUNGE.

The waves of the ocean raged boldly and high,
Rain, wind, and current, to strengthen them came;
The Islands resounded with misery's cry,
For they rushed o'er the banks like a torrent of flame!
Where the sower had planted with toil and with care,
And now joy'd in the hope of reward for his pain;
Destruction and ruin stalk'd ruthlessly there,
And his hope and his labour alike were vain.
Where the heathen had raised a structure high,
And founded to mammon an altar and throne,
The waters prevailed, the storm passed by,
Nor left on earth's surface or builder or stone.
See, one buffets the billows with manly breast,
To save for his children a morsel of bread;
But judge, O ye fathers, his woe and distress,
The cabin has fallen, and all are dead!
A female has clambered high in air,
Her life and her embryo offspring to save;
The throes of the mother have seized her there
And she falls and is whelm'd in the merciless wave.
Thousands were swept to Eternity's bar,
Whose hopes from their vigour and youth were high;
Thousands, who bent by affliction and care,
And thousands, unconscious of danger nigh.
The plains and shores are like battle-field,
Though there was no warrior to slay or to spare;
In silence and darkness their slumbers were seal'd,
For the arms of Jehovah alone was there!
Who can tell the deep woes of the few that survive,
Of homes, friends, and substance so awfully 'rest;
Fathers, widows, and orphans, unsolaced grieve,
For "one has been taken, the other left!"
Be warn'd, O ye dwellers in Indian land,
Or Heathen or Christian, however ye be;
Thus resistless and sudden at Heaven's command
Ye all may be swept to Eternity.
Then O! let your reverence and feeling be shown,
By your bounty to those whom the Lord hath distress'd
He grants you this privilege—O make it your own
Remember, "the merciful ever are blest!"

HERACLITUS.

COURSE OF EXCHANGE.

BUY]	CALCUTTA.	[SELL
2 1/2 a 2 1/2	On London 6 Months sight, per Sicca Rupees 2 1/2 a 2 1/2	
	Bombay 30 Days sight, per 100 Bombay Rupees 92	
	Madras ditto, 96 a 95 3/4 Rs. per 100 Madras Rupees	
Bills on Court of Directors 10 months date,	23 0 a 23 0 per cent.	
Ditto ditto, 14 ditto,.....	20 0 a 21 0 per cent.	
	Bank Shares—Premium, 39 a 40 per cent.	

Prices of Opium.

To the Editor of the Journal.

SIR,

If your Correspondent, "CONSTANT READER," will turn to Crawford's History of the Indian Archipelago, a Work of very great merit and research, he will find some curious illustrations respecting Opium, and although I am unable to furnish him with the information he requires, I annex the following extracts from the Work above mentioned, regarding the above curious monopoly.

"The natural cost of a Chest of Opium in Bengal, weighing 140 lbs. avoirdupois, is about 112 Rupees, and about 4500 Chests are grown annually by Government only; the prices have risen as follows," in 1801, per Chest 738 Rupees.

1803, per Chest 1124 Rupees.

1804, per Chest 1437 Rupees.

1810, per Chest 1589 Rupees.

1811, per Chest 1639 Rupees.

1817, per Chest 2300 Rupees, to which may

be added 1822, per Chest 4230 Rupees.

The rise no doubt proceeds from the supply not being equal to the demand. The same writer observes of Turkey Opium, that it is now in such request in the Indian Seas as almost to supersede Bengal,—take his own words for it.

"In 1815 Turkey Opium could hardly be sold in Java at one third of the Bengal prices; afterwards in contracts, one fourth was consented to be taken; in 1817 they expressly stipulated for one half Turkey Opium, though, the price rose to double its first amount; and in 1818 they demanded that three fourths of the whole amount of the supply, should be Turkey Opium."

The Turkey Opium, as all your Mercantile Readers know, is conveyed to the Eastern Islands by the Americans, who are driving us fast out of those, and the China Markets, thanks to Monopolies and Restrictions.

Your's most obediently,

September 4, 1822.

MERCANTILE

Selections.

Madras, August 29, 1822.—Letters from the Camp of the Honourable the Governor state, they expected to be at Chicacole on the 13th. They had experienced a great deal of rain, but there had been no sickness whatever in the Camp.

Sunday last being the Anniversary of the Birth-day of his Highness the Nabob of the Carnatic, Royal Salutes were fired at intervals during the day at Chepauk; and at 1 o'clock a Royal Salute was fired from the Fort Battery, in honor of the occasion.

His Excellency General Sir Alexander Campbell paid a visit of ceremony to his Highness the Nabob on Monday last, and was received at Chepauk with the customary honors.

His Highness the Nabob returned the visit of his Excellency yesterday forenoon.

These visits were announced by the usual Salutes.

His Highness Prince Futteh Oolla Khan embarked on the Ship VOLUNTEER for Calcutta, under suitable honors on the 14th instant.

The Subscription Assembly on Friday last was very fully attended.—The Dancing began at about 10 o'clock—commencing with an English Country Dancer, followed by Quadrilles—and was kept up with great spirit until a late hour. The Supper, which was tastefully set out, was given in a Pandall adjoining the building—every attention was paid by the Stewards to make the Entertainment worthy of those who attended, and their exertions were eminently successful—every one appeared pleased—and it is expected, these Entertainments will again become frequent. It is much to be regretted, that in a place like Madras, there should be no building, the property of the Society at large, suited in extent and taste to the purpose of giving these and the like Entertainments.

The Ships MARY ANNE, from Port Louis the 31st ultimo, and MAHMOUD SHAH, from Ceylon, arrived yesterday.

The WINDSOR CASTLE, Captain Lee, is receiving Cargo for England and is expected to sail about the 20th of September.

Names of Passengers proceeding on the Ship MELLISH expected to sail to-morrow:—Captain Gray, Capt. Fole, Capt. Kerr, Lieut. Isackson, Lieut. Carter.—Madras Government Gazette.

Colombo, August 10.—A scene of some interest took place on Wednesday last the 7th of August, in the Supreme Court, which affords a curious instance of the manner in which the Natives of this Island make use of Courts of Justice to effect their own revengeful purposes. One David Parera was put to the Bar to take his trial for a burglary, alleged to have been committed at the village of Papeliave at some miles distance, in the house of one Adrianna Dias. The two sons of this woman stated that they were awakened from their sleep on the night in question by an unusual noise, and found their house broken open, and heard the steps of persons running away. They secured one man while he was escaping from the house; and upon giving an alarm, the neighbours came with a light, and the person whom they had seized proved to be the Prisoner; and upon examining their premises they found two chests, rifled of their contents, at some distance from the house. The Prisoner's defence to this charge was that he had been invited to sup and sleep at their house by the sons of Adrianna Dias, that he was awakened about midnight by them: that they wanted him to consent to marry their sister, who had been one of the party the evening before, which, if he would not do, they would accuse him of robbery. Upon his refusal, they called in some other persons, seized and tied him, broke a hole in the roof, conveyed two chests to some distance to support their charge, sent for the Constable; and he was taken into custody. The point upon which the whole case finally turned, was upon the place where this sister of the prosecutor's resided. On the side of the prosecution all the witnesses swore positively that she had not lived in their Mother's house for two years; and a Brother-in-law, residing in Slave-island, swore that she had lived in his family for the whole of that period, and that she had never been absent from his house without his accompanying her, and that it was impossible for her to have been absent a whole night without his knowledge. The girl herself confirmed these facts, and added that she had never seen the Prisoner before in her life. On the Prisoner's side the evidence was equally positive that this girl had been constantly resident with her mother; and that she was actually in the house on the very night of the alleged robbery.

During this scene of conflicting testimony, it occurred to the Court that the Constable of the Slave-island being so near at hand, would be an important witness, who, from his local knowledge, might be able to confirm or contradict the evidence of the Brother-in-law; and a Band was immediately dispatched for him.

The arrival of the Constable in this manner excited considerable sensation; which was increased by his appearance.—His evidence was decisive of the case. He stated that the girl had once resided with the Brother-in-law, but that this was five years ago, and that he could undertake to swear she had not done so for the last two years. He further stated that the Brother-in-law had lately been tampering with him, with a view to persuade him to come forward and give false evidence on this very point. The tables were now turned; the Prisoner was immediately acquitted; and Mr. Mathews, the Advocate Fiscal, moved that all the witnesses for the prosecution should be committed to take their trial for a Conspiracy.

This trial took place yesterday, when eight of them were convicted, and it is hoped, that their punishment following so immediately upon the commission of the offence, will operate beneficially as a warning to prevent such practices in future.—Ceylon Gazette.

A Fakir's Cure for the Cholera.—The wife of a barber at Ettaurree Mohorase-poor, which lies to the north of Kriehn-nagar, aged about 21, was seized with the Cholera Morbus, in the Month Ausar. A Fakir, who came to the house to ask alms, hearing of this, said to the Barber, that if he would permit him, he could make a cure for his wife. As no doctor was to be had in the village, they, according to the advice of the Fakir, made her take some green leaves of *Biddhy*, and Opium with the juice of *Biddhy* leaves, and bound her hands and legs 8 inches asunder with a piece of rope. This stayed the symptoms of the disease, and after an hour, they unloosed the knots. However, she was quite intoxicated by the draft she had taken, and slept in the night soundly. The next morning she found herself quite recovered. The Barber wanted to make some present to the Fakir, who sojourned there that day; but the latter declined the offer. He said that any one might be cured of the Cholera Morbus by that draft, and therefore we have given publicity to it for the good of the Public.

Robbery.—On Monday the 4th Bhadro, at about midnight, a robbery was committed in the House of Saboke Ram Bose, resident at Ladoo-anr Mohanna. More than 100 Robbers at once entered the house, and plundered it of all the jewels and money that were in it, besides bank notes to a great amount. They likewise wounded the proprietor of the house and a bearer. We hear, that the Chokedar of the house and that of the village are imprisoned on account of their being absent at the time. *Somachur Chandrica, No. 26.*

Archdeacon of Calcutta.—We yesterday had the painful task, of announcing to our Readers, the Death of the ARCHDEACON OF CALCUTTA: but we cannot suffer the tomb to close over his remains, without attempt-

ing to pay some further tribute of respect and regret, which we are enabled to do through the means of one, who knew him better than we did. Indeed, to do justice to his character, a more intimate acquaintance was necessary, than the mere occasional intercourse of Society admitted; for altho' that alone was sufficient to excite feelings of the most cordial esteem, his plain and unobtrusive habits, withheld from more cursory observation, those many traits, which rendered him dear to all, who had the pleasure of his intimate acquaintance and friendship. ARCHDEACON LORING was in every respect, and in the truest sense of the word "amiable;" it was impossible to know and not to love him. Honest, plain and mainly integrity, "doing to others as he would be done by;" unaffected humility, "esteeming others better than himself;" gentlemanly principles and manners, and sincere piety, all united greatly to endear this respectable clergyman to the now sorrowing circle of his friends. The tenderness and goodness of his heart, and the delicacy of his feelings, are deeply engraven on hearts which have been soothed and cheered by his kind and affectionate attentions, while they were also gladdened by the innocent playfulness of his manners, emanating from the peace of a guiltless heart. As a tender husband, a fond parent, a pious son, an affectionate brother, and a valuable friend, he has left a chasm which nothing here below can fill. As a religious character, the ARCHDEACON will be judged of according to the views and feelings of those, who may dwell upon his character. If any conceive that Christian faith can only be evinced by the adoption of certain modes of thinking and acting, and are content to view him only as an amiable man, they will be far from doing him justice; for Christianity entered deeply into his character and influenced the conduct of his life. He regarded Religion as an awful thing, and cultivated it in humility of heart and in faith, conscious of his imperfections and demerits, and therefore void of familiarity and presumption. His reading was in great measure of a religious kind; and as a proof of the occupation of his mind, when sickness most probably called him from his desk to his death-bed, a little book, which always lay before him, "Dodridge's Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul," was found turned down open to the chapter on "The Soul submitting to Divine Examination the sincerity of its repentance and faith." But the surest evidence of a truly Christian temper is Charity, in its true and scriptural sense, and with this grace Providence had greatly blessed him, that Charity which suffereth long and is kind; which envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; which beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Sincere and honest himself he was wholly unsuspicious of others, and was ever ready to view things as favourably as they appeared; if he differed in judgment and opinion from others, he did it with firmness because he acted on principle but without forgetting his own fallibility; and if he was compelled to condemn, having to speak ill of others, he did it without asperity. His humility was evinced by the directions which he gave at an early period of his indisposition to a friend who loved him well, respecting his funeral.—The sincere regret, which follows him, testifies that he was beloved; and what we have said (and we have not, we think, gone beyond the truth) it will be seen how justly he was so. The veil of eternity is withdrawn, and this guiltless Christian is gone to appear face to face with his Maker, where faith and hope being realised and consummated, Charity holds its blessed reign for ever! —John Bull.

Shipping Arrivals.

Madras, August 22.—Arrived the English Ship GEORGETHE FOURTH, John W. Clark, Master, from England and the Cape of Good Hope, she left the latter port 3d July. Passengers as follows: From the Cape, Mrs. and Mordaunt Rickets, Esq. Bengal Civil Service, Captain Patton and Mr. Baunerman, the former Madras Artillery, the latter Civil Service. Mr. Tonson and family, who were wrecked in the FAME. From England—Mr. Rochfort and Mr. Dalzell, the latter Cadet, Bengal Service. The GEORGETHE FOURTH proceeds to Bengal in a few hours.—Private Letter.

CALCUTTA.

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Sept. 7	Volunteer	British	T. Waterman	Bombay	July 23

Stations of Vessels in the River.

CALCUTTA, SEPTEMBER 6, 1822.

At Diamond Harbour.—RANGOON PACKET (brig), proceeded down, —VOLUNTEER, passed up.
New Anchorage.—H. C. Ships ASIA, and ST. THIAGO MAJOR, (P.) Saugor.—H. C. S. DUCHESSE OF ATHOL, JAMES SCOTT, and CAROLINE (brig), outward-bound, remain.

The Ship KENT, Captain G. Sutherland, for London via Isle of France; Ship JULIANA, Captain J. Webster, for Cape via Isle of France; and Ship ELEANOR, Captain C. Tabor, for Batavia, are expected to sail in a day or two.

Approaching Races.

CALCUTTA MEETING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 1822.

The Second Riddlesworth Stakes of 100 Gold Mohurs each, 15 forfeit, Colts 8 st. 7 lb.—Fillies 8 st. 7 lb.—G. M.

br. f. Beggar Girl, by Vagrant, out of Narcissa, by Eclipse.
ch. c. Corinthian Tom, by Uncle Toby, out of Miss Pigot.
ch. c. The Lawyer, by Uncle Toby, out of Nettie, (A.)
b. f. Cocoon, by Uncle Toby, out of Filbert, (F.)
ch. c. Grumbler, by Election, out of Ross, (E.)
b. c. Jacco Macacco, by Benedick, out of Clara, by Eclipse.
b. f. Indiana, by Benedick, out of Petronella, (E.)
b. c. Horatio, by Shakespear, out of Fidget.
b. c. ———, by Benedick, out of Turantula.
ch. c. Impromptu, by Benedick, out of Worthiana.
b. f. ———, by Flamingo, out of Lady Pepper.
gr. c. ———, by Flamingo, out of Sister Ann.
b. f. ———, by Mercury, (A.) out of Brunetta, (E.)
b. c. Grasshopper, (dead) by Benedick, out of Beasy.

MATCH FOR 200 GOLD MOHURS.—R. C. st. lb.

b. E. h. ———, by Haphazard, 6 years, 8 10
b. E. m. Sophia, by Potion, 5 years, 8 0

The following are made for the CALCUTTA DECEMBER MEETING, but the days of Running not fixed.

MATCH FOR 100 GOLD MOHURS.—30 forfeit—C. D.

b. c. c. Eactdropper, by Benedick, 8 7
b. c. c. Cobbler, by Ness, 8 0

The third year of a Post-Match for all Horses, 8 st. 7 lb. each, — R. C. 5000 Rupees, half forfeit.

MATCH FOR 200 GOLD MOHURS.—Half forfeit—R. C.

b. E. h. Snake, by Haphazard, 7 years, 8 7
br. E. h. Cannonade, by Smolensko, 5 years, 8 0

MATCH FOR 50 GOLD MOHURS.—Half forfeit—R. C.

A. h. Corinthian Tom, } weight for age.
A. m. Corinthina Kate, }

A Hunter's Stakes of 10 Gold Mohurs each for all Horses, 4 years, 10 st. 4 lb.—Five, 11 st. 6 lb.—Six, 12 st.—and Aged, 21 st. 2 lb.

MATCH FOR 200 GOLD MOHURS.—Half forfeit—G. M.

ch. h. Sylocanus, by Selim, 8 10
gr. h. Financier, (dead) by Treasurer, 8 0

Abbreviation used in the foregoing.—C. C. for Calcutta Course, H. C. for Barrackpore Course, T. M. for two miles, R. C. for round the Course, T. I. for tree in, C. D. for craven distance, G. M. for Gilbert mile, L. M. for last mile, T. Y. C. for two years old Course, H. M. for half a mile, E. for English, C. for Country-bred, Ca. for Cape, A. for Arab, h. for horse, g. for gelding, m. for mare, c. for colt, f. for filly.

John Bull.

Nautical Notices.

On the 14th of June, sailed out of Table Bay, the FAME, English Ship, William Clark, Master, bound to London, cargo Sundries, and with Invalids, from Calcutta and Madras.

In beating out to Sea, with Wind Northerly, and a heavy swell rolling in shore, she missed stays, and notwithstanding every exertion, by Anchoring, &c. to keep her off, she drove on the most rocky part of Sea-point, and became a total Wreck;—providentially, before she parted asunder, the Passengers and Crew, (with the exception of Mr. Coffin, Purser, Mrs. Mills, Miss Banks, and Master Mayoh, Passengers, and 4 Seamen and Invalids,) were brought safe off, by Boats from Table Bay, at the imminent peril of their Lives, and of those who courageously went to their rescue, such a distance, at midnight.—Cape Town Gazette.

Passengers.

Passengers per VOLUNTEER, from Bombay to Calcutta.—Prince Patti Ally, and 15 Attendants; and Mr. Voysey, Surgeon. For Madras,—Lieutenant Taylor, 11th Regiment of Native Infantry.